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JPRS-SSA-84-064

5 June 1984

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A
Approved for public release
Distribution Unlimited

Sub-Saharan Africa Report

19980319 127

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5 June 1984

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

OATUU CALLS FOR SCRUTINY OF IMF

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 8 May 84 p 1

[Text] THE Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) has urged African governments to take a fresh look into the depth of what the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is standing for since its policies have brought confrontation between workers and their governments.

The annual report of OATUU for 1983 said it was time governments looked into the IMF's objectives, resources, power structure, facilities for loans, modality for negotiations and ideology to better understand its "unpopular policies in our countries" which affect most, the working classes.

"Through its advice, many African governments have taken unpopular decisions which alienated them from the masses. Protests and demonstrations rejecting these measures have been common throughout the continent for the past couple of years," the report, released by OATUU secretary general Mr Denis Akumu yesterday says.

These unpopular measures often advised by IMF include withdrawal of subsidies from food, petrol and other essential items.

There have been devaluation of local currencies with the subsequent rise of prices of imported goods and services.

This has led to the increase in unemployment and the decrease in the standard of living.

The report has urged workers' spokesmen not to betray those they represent.

"This is important as we are likely to witness more conflicts between workers and governments in future as a result of the pressure by the IMF on governments to cut down on social services," the report warns.

The general decline of the economies facing the African countries which is eroding the workers' purchasing power may be another area of serious conflict.

"It is important that we defend the interest of the workers honestly and firmly. It is equally important that we do not condone or join corrupt practices.

"Our movement must speak boldly and clearly against social evils and advocate for policies aimed at the socio-economic betterment of the labouring poor majority."

Trade unionists have been urged to support stability in their countries and retain the right to criticise national administrations when they depart from national objectives.

The OATUU has urged trade unions and the governments to ensure that there was continued dialogue between them.

"The OATUU takes the view that it cannot regard an African government as an enemy unless it is not acting in the interest of its people.

"We refuse to accept advice from the international organisations which preach permanent distrust with our governments while they are working very closely with their governments and political parties,' the report says.

CSO: 3400/968

AFRICA'S FOOD PROBLEMS DETAILED

Cape Town THE CAPE TIMES in English 30 Apr 84 p 8

[Article by Anthony Delius]

[Text]

LONDON. — Africa is in a mess, from the skinniest peasant in the desert to hard-worked government officials responsible for housing on the Cape Flats.

People tell each other, and the world at large, that it's the fault of the weather and of the poorness of much of the soil.

Economists and agronomists lay the blame on the hastily formed governments that indulged themselves in nationalist politics while ignoring the continent's agriculture.

From Nigeria to Zimbabwe opportunities have been squandered in a reckless political carousel. South Africa itself is gradually crumbling into a patchwork of urban wealth and squalor surrounded by an outwork of racial backyards.

Exciting times

The continent that until the end of World War II was at least able to feed itself, is now sliding rapidly into bankruptcy and famine.

"Always something new out of Africa," the Romans used to say during the exciting times just before the coming of Christianity, and the

first 500 years thereafter. It applied to the northerly parts, and even further in history the region threw up great figures and systems in politics and religion, in Christianity and Islam.

But now Africa seems to be falling under a creeping desert of ideas and social inventions, not least President Gaddafi's scheme for a new diplomacy.

Perhaps the most remarkable move to be made in Africa of recent times comes from Nigeria and is still in the course of taking place.

We are still awaiting the outcome of the new military government's desperate act aimed at bringing corruption to an end. The naira currency, brought into being at independence in 1960, is now being abolished and a new currency is being adopted.

Imagine if the government of South Africa got fed up with the business and financial malpractices that grew up around the rand when it replaced the pound, and swept the whole rand currency out of existence.

So anybody who had rands in banks abroad, or under his bed, would

never be allowed to exchange them for the new currency again — just as those Nigerians who fled the country with loads of naira, or in buried tea-chests, will not be allowed to exchange them for the new currency.

Unless the whole exchange was arranged by officials of great probity and efficiency, the possibility of the experiment ending in a major cock-up would appear to be great.

The financial world, to which Nigeria owes about five billion dollars, must be looking forward with considerable anxiety to May 6 — the day on which everybody gets new currency.

The portents for a successful outcome of the great Nigerian currency switch are not great. If it is successful the temptation for other countries in Africa to do the same will be overwhelming.

The need for a gesture of equal scope and magnificence in Zimbabwe to take the population's mind off present confusions is growing ever greater.

Say that Mr Mugabe

wants to take dramatic action to show that, despite setbacks by droughts and business failures, he will at least achieve an advance for all the people on the land.

To do this he would have to supply all the country's farmers and would-be farmers each with 150 acres (including 12½ arable acres).

The scheme would require 24.3 million acres, taking over two-thirds of all the country's commercial, mainly white farmland.

Where would he get the hundreds of millions required to do this and provide the training needed so that the agricultural produce would not fall disastrously when the switch-over occurred?

State farms

The Zimbabwean government also wants the new farmers to be drawn into a co-operative system. The largely private enterprise farming system, under which Zimbabwe's present black farmers have been brought up, would be replaced by state-farming systems.

Unfortunately the record of state-farming, co-operative systems in Africa is unhappy, including that in Tanzania and Ethiopia.

The Zimbabwean movement into state farming would come at a

time when the world is moving into an era where private enterprise, market-based farmers are providing the great bulk of the total food of the world.

Most of the poorly paid farmers, largely working on substitute plots or on state systems — that is 98 percent of the world's farmers — are only producing a quarter of the world's food.

Poor whites

The problem in Africa is that, while drought can be blamed for some recent food shortage, the blame for much food-supply failure, can be laid at the door of the continent's city-based governments, who systematically hold down food prices in the hope of giving the new poor populations of the cities food cheap enough to buy.

Even South Africa which has only recently been holding its second Carnegie conference into the causes of the poverty of the majority of its total population, must mark this fact and remember that its first Carnegie conference was an investigation of the poor-white problem.

What little we may have learnt since then could be shared out among all men in Africa.

ANGOLA

PORtUGUESE COMMENTATOR FORESEES EVENTUAL TAKEOVER BY UNITA

Lisbon 0 DIA in Portuguese 8 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by A. Lorena Birne: "Inevitable Substitution: UNITA Will Overcome MPLA"]

[Text] Angola which, before the military coup d'etat of 25 April 1974, had been the Portuguese territory on the African continent in which the guerrillas were most under control and in which pacification was visible, has since that date become, among the new states emerging from the coup, the one with the greatest internal instability. The military government, which granted it independence in November 1975, after the meeting in Alvor of the three guerrilla movements that had been operating in the territory, disregarded UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and FNLA [Angolan National Liberation Front], and offered the power to MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola], which was considered avowedly pro-Soviet after the Portuguese Armed Forces still stationed in Luanda contributed decisively to the neutralization of the competitors.

The suspicion of the neighboring states and the U.S., evoked by this act, which pointed to the future instability of the region, prompted the RAS [Republic of South Africa] to grant military support to UNITA, and Washington, through Zaire, to grant it to FNLA. MPLA, for its part, aware of its weakness, sought the aid of Cuba and the USSR. The response was immediate and, promptly, in November 1975, an airlift was established between Havana and Luanda, with a stop in the Azores to ensure refueling. The necessary granting of the Lages facilities by the Lisbon government to Cuba was the deciding factor for Angola to remain under the control of a pro-Soviet government, and for Southern Africa's strategic position to be thoroughly changed in favor of Moscow.

The consequences of this entire process have been extremely detrimental to Angola.

The flight of the vast majority of its leaders, to both Brazil and Portugal, immediately destroyed any chances of economic and social development. On the other hand, the departure from the territory of over half a million people

completely eradicated both the commercial networks and agriculture. This situation, combined with MPLA's need to put the largest number of people under its control, led to an enormous growth in the urban population, causing unsolvable food shortages.

In terms of foreign trade, Angola, which registered an increment of 4,200 percent in its trade balance between 1968 and 1974, underwent a reduction estimated at 16 percent between 1974 and 1982, despite the spectacular rise in the oil industry's prices.

Importance of Angola

In addition to its vast agricultural and mining potential, the country holds an important geostrategic position in the South Atlantic. Up until 1974, the West had enjoyed complete security for its ocean routes in that region, owing to the control wielded over the riparian areas by South Africa, Portugal, Argentina and Brazil. Starting in 1975, the Soviet presence in Angola was to change this situation totally, because Moscow, which is MPLA's only guarantee for survival, gained and consolidated a strategic position enabling it, if necessary, to neutralize the RAS, jeopardize the stability of the countries of Southern Africa, and threaten the ocean transportation traversing the Cape route, which is essential to the industrialized West European countries.

At present, Russia is sending reconnaissance flights to the South Atlantic and to the RAS, from Angolan territory, using its Bear TU-95's, whose radius of action exceeds 14,000 kilometers, and which can be refueled in the air.

The South African industrial centers, as well as the secret naval facilities located in Simonstown, which are essential to guarantee the safety of navigation, are now completely within the reach of both the Soviet Navy and Soviet bombers, which could even threaten the eastern coasts of Brazil and Argentina as well.

That former Portuguese province is, in fact, particularly important to the USSR because of its geopolitical features: For the first time, Moscow has managed to project its military power into the South Atlantic. It is mainly concerned with exploiting the territory's strategic potential, and disposing of the natural resources that it does not need. To implement this policy it uses the professional Cuban Army, just as, in history, empires have always used the troops of states which are its clients.

The U.S., which was overtaken by the events after the coup d'etat in Lisbon, and which found itself, at the time, coming to grips with the internal crisis following the defeat suffered in Vietnam and the Watergate scandal, was powerless to change the course of events. Moreover, the foreign policy of the then President Carter, marked by systematic contradiction and by constant indecision, could in no way help to oppose and check the Soviet policy.

The European countries, for their part, reduced to impotence for lack of backing from Washington, were too concerned with the actual fact of the Communists' seizure of power in Lisbon, which would threaten their southern flank,

at a time when the imminent death of Generalissimo Franco was already in sight. Since then, the American policy regarding Angola has been confined to discreet support for the strategy being pursued by Pretoria, of aiding UNITA; and, since the arrival of President Ronald Reagan, contributing to the potential stability of Southern Africa. This contribution has been translated into both an increase in the pressure on Luanda and the linking of Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angolan territory, as well as the efforts expended to force MPLA to sit down at the negotiating table with Savimbi's movement.

Cuba's Role

There has been a great deal of talk about Cuba's involvement in Africa (generally, with little understanding of the reason), inasmuch as most of the public seems convinced that Fidel Castro is nothing but a mere lackey of Moscow.

In fact, the truth is substantially different from this distorted image; and if, starting in the 1970's, we witnessed the Cuban Army's massive, overt intervention in the continent, it was due both to Soviet interests and to Havana's interests in maintaining internal order.

The new Cuban generation, which is separated in time from the one that made and defended the revolution during the 1950's and 1960's, has observed the efforts of the older people both to put an end to the country's strict subordination to the U.S. and to prevent its subjugation to the USSR.

The defeat of Castro's guerrillas in South America, the constant sacrifices demanded in the nation's defense and the resounding failure of the revolutionary offensive of 1968, aimed at winning the country's economic independence, as well as the failure of the campaign for the harvesting of 10 million tons of sugar and, finally, topping off this entire struggle lasting for so many years, the inglorious results reflected in the unconcealable capitulation to the models and methods of Soviet bureaucracy, with Cuba's entry into CEMA [Council for Economic Mutual Assistance] and its absolute dependence on the subsidies from Moscow. On the other hand, the young people who have not witnessed the battle waged by the country, but who are fully aware of its painful denouement, have become disassociated from their revolutionary spirit upon finding, with disenchanting realism, that the living conditions for the island's 10 million inhabitants are not improving and that the prospects for the future are far from bright. This increasing demoralization among the youth had led the Cuban leaders to the classic solution of attempting to overcome internal problems through foreign policy. The interests of Soviet expansion in Africa are combined with their own interests in giving the younger generation an internationalist crusade that would greatly broaden a horizon that had been narrowing; a situation which assured a renewal of the morale situation, also affording the anticipation of fruitful economic relations which, when properly increased, would allow Cuba to become gradually liberated from the USSR. Moreover, in this respect Angola combined some

remarkably promising conditions, both because of the excellent relations that existed between Havana and Agostinho Neto, and because of the void left by the exodus of the Portuguese, not to mention, obviously, the territory's settled by wonderful resources.

Angola and the Future

The presence of the Cuban regular army in Angola, and the backing given to SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] and to the forces opposed to Mobuto stationed in the territory during the time of the Portuguese represented factors which, when combined with the revolutionary demagoguery of the country's new leaders, have prompted the neighboring states to worry about their security.

Zaire, which backed FNLA, experienced an invasion of its province of Shaba started by forces based in Angola, and managed to oppose it only because it was able to receive prompt assistance from France, Belgium and Morocco, made possible by the backing from the United States. Kinshasa, however, fearing a repetition of the incidents, decided to close military camps occupied since 1961 by Holden Robert's followers, and to dissolve the armed groups which had been operating on that basis in Angolan territory.

Zambia, for its part, a traditional ally of UNITA, found itself forced to put an end to the activities of Jonas Savimbi's movement, during a period of fear caused by the pressure from Luanda.

As for the Republic of South Africa, in addition to reinforcing its military power in Namibia, and, by way of prevention, engaging in systematic action to neutralize SWAPO's activities, replaced Lusaka in aiding Savimbi, thereby enabling the latter to resume the armed struggle against MPLA.

UNITA, which controls more than 60 percent of the Angolan population, and which currently has at its disposal a well-armed army of approximately 15,000 men, is confronting forces comprised of 37,500 Angolans, 25,000 Cubans, and 450 East Germans, responsible for the air force and for the heavy equipment, as well as 700 Soviet military advisers and several Portuguese.

MPLA, which was the weakest movement in the former Portuguese territory, must now cope with a numerically larger opposition which, knowing how to take clever advantage of the enemy's shortcomings, difficulties and contradictions, has forced it to go on the defensive, demoralizing it and managing to substantially expand its influence in the territory. Moreover, not unaware of the fact that it has little chance of acting in the North, for reasons of an ethnic nature, he is now attempting, through agreements with factions which belonged to FNLA, to start involving Luanda and other northern cities, thereby fostering guerrilla activity in the Angolan Congo.

The exacerbation of the difficulties besetting the Luanda government and its allies has brought two types of consequences, which will certainly determine the future: the first, linked with the Cuban presence, relates to the

psychological attrition that is starting to become evident both among civilians and among the military sent by Havana. Convinced that they would find a country that could be easily controlled, they have found that, unlike what they had been told, their lives are increasingly at risk, and that they are not at all approved of by the very native population which they were supposed to defend. The difficulty in adjusting to the Angolan situation, the constant insecurity and the casualties suffered have prompted the military, despite the \$600 per month paid monthly to every soldier by the Luanda government, to show reluctance toward risking its skin. The second relates to the pressure said to have been brought to bear on the USSR to choose between reinforcing the weaponry and increasing the number of Cuban troops, in an attempt to impose the necessary pressure to keep control of the cities, which are the strategic points that are of essential concern to it.

Despite this picture, filled with threats to MPLA, UNITA does not have the means for attaining total victory. In fact, it could control the rural areas, destroy the Luanda government's economic mainstays further still and add feats similar to the recent occupation of Novo Redondo. But its inability to confront the enormous variety of the Russo-Cuban military potential would not allow it to maintain these positions for very long.

In the event that the Angolan internal situation continues to evolve as predicted here, the strategy pursued to date by Jonas Savimbi, which has enormous political, religious and economic backing from the U.S., will have to be intensified, so as to increasingly weaken MPLA and the moral of the Cuban expeditionary force, until the Luanda government is forced to agree to negotiations.

However, unlike FRELIMO [Mozambique Liberation Front] which, if the agreement signed with the RAS is implemented, will be forced to replace Marcelino dos Santos' minority faction with Mondlane's former followers, in Angola, MPLA does not seem to have the same maneuvering room, and the negotiations, if they should take place, will almost inevitably lead to its replacement in power by UNITA.

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CSO: 3442/361

PORtUGUESE COMMENTATOR DEPLORES CABINDA SITUATION

Lisbon 0 DIA in Portuguese 18 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Fernao Pacheco de Castro: "Cabinda: the Other Namibia"]

[Text] The other Namibia is unknown to the general public, and the "impartial" unenlightened reporting is the grossest injustice committed by the international media with respect to Africa, a veritable defrauding of human rights and a shameful deception engraved on the recent history of the Portuguese people.

Cabinda, a sovereign state, managed to withstand the plundering of Africa carried out during the last century by the European progressive liberals who, engaging in the sheerest colonialism, created borders without links, dividing ethnic groups with different languages and customs and showing no respect for the existing tribes, peoples and nations.

The people of Cabinda experienced the maelstrom of the division of Africa, retaining their sovereignty. But, aware of their difficulties, they requested the aid of the friendly Portuguese people. On 1 February 1885, the Treaty of Simulambuco was signed between the two free, sovereign peoples, in which they asked the other nation for protection and the maintenance of their integrity, and hence did not agree to be a colony.

Despite the republican colonial spirit, the Portuguese Constitution of 1933 still respected Cabinda in its first articles. But with the passage of time Armindo Monteiro, Vieira Machado, Albino dos Reis and Marcelo Caetano put this territory, which is quite dissociated from Angola, both physically and culturally, under the administration of the central government in Luanda.

Angola is a word that has substance only as part of a certain situation connected with Portugal. It did not exist apart from Lusitania, and is a colonial dictatorship, inasmuch as it is not a federation of peoples and states.

But Cabinda has natural, historical rights to total, absolute independence. If the latter has been given to a small island discovered and settled by Portuguese, out of mere self-interest on the part of foreign powers, why has

the same thing not been done for the heroic people of Cabinda, who have never agreed to be governed by Luanda, and who may soon take up arms? FLEC [Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave] is by far the African armed movement with the greatest legitimacy. It has the right to rebel as a people who have been sovereign, against another people who betrayed and conquered them.

Namibia is a very barren, sparsely populated region (whose people are very nomadic), with little awareness that they belong to different tribes, which was grabbed by Germany when Africa was carved up, and which later came under British administration as a result of the stupid Versailles Treaty. And, upon the independence of South Africa, the latter took it over.

No one attached any importance to Namibia until ores appeared to exist there, and it became an extremely important geostrategic area of the South Atlantic. Immediately, forces were organized which wanted to control that vast region, or rule it indirectly, in the name of a pseudo-independence.

Cabinda, which lacks the strategic importance of Namibia, is rich in lumber, ores and, primarily, "black gold," and the great powers want to, and actually are dividing up its assets. With the blessing of Carter and the "Moscow officials," Rosa Coutinho has commanded metropolitan army forces, to seize the staff of the Portuguese forces of Cabinda, and also, under the national flag, has conquered Cabinda and turned it over to the MPLA. It was an occasion for restoring justice and upholding the Treaty of Simulambuco; but dishonor fell upon the Portuguese. In the past, they were known in the world as men with a capital M, people who kept their word; and now they are known as deceitful, even in regard to their word. At present, the American companies are exploring for oil in Cabinda, while Soviet and Cuban "Boches" are keeping its people in the jungle.

Any responsible Portuguese worthy of the name cannot remain indifferent toward the situation of their brothers in Cabinda, who believed in us. The international laws, the UN, etc., have been guillotined, with heads rolling in the mire, while such serious, flagrant senselessness is occurring. Not to mention the robberies, the millions dying from the shock of eviction, and the disease and hunger caused by the so-called decolonization, leaving poverty and misery in its wake.

When the situation in Timor began, few had the courage to raise their voices. Cabinda is not far behind; it is even more serious, and we Portuguese have a very great responsibility in this worldwide scandal. I hope that, within a year, at the time of the centennial of the Treaty of Simulambuco, the people of Cabinda will be free, or will have high hopes internationally for achieving freedom, and that the Portuguese people will be cleansed of this pernicious disgrace.

2909

CSO: 3442/357

ANGOLA

UNITA'S INTENTIONS SINCE DISENGAGEMENT FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Lisbon EXPRESSO in Portuguese 28 Apr 84 p 12

[Article: "Angola, Between Dialog and Terrorism"]

[Text] While Angola and South Africa are intensifying their contacts in the process of clearing up the Angolan-Namibian border, UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] seems to have taken a new path in its struggle against the Luanda government, attempting to gain acceptance for its status as a partner in the internal (Angolan) and regional plans, through new violent acts which do not exclude bomb setting.

Delegations from Angola and South Africa, headed by the minister of interior, Alexandre Rodriguez, "Kito," and the minister of foreign affairs, Roelof "Pil" Botha, respectively, met again in Lusaka on Wednesday in order to analyze the situation in the area and to discuss the question of the separation of the two countries' forces, which is still incomplete.

At a meeting marked particularly by the presence of the general administrator of Namibia, Willie Van Niekerk, the two sides reached agreement on an exchange of prisoners (involving one South African soldier, one Cuban and several Angolans), and also debated the problem of the presence of Cuban troops in Angola, the withdrawal of which has been demanded by South Africa and the United States, as a condition for the progress of the peace process in the region and the independence of Namibia.

It was with the argument of pressuring Luanda concerning the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola that UNITA, an anti-government organization headed by Jonas Savimbi, justified, through a spokesman, the "new tactic" used in its offensive, which now has terrorist features as well.

On Thursday of last week, a jeep loaded with explosives and parked on 4 February Avenue, the main artery in Huambo (formerly Nova Lisboa), in the center of Angola, toppled an 11-story building, killing some of its occupants and passers-by who were there at the time of the explosion.

The rumors concerning the toll and the nationalities of the victims varied. On Saturday, Angolan television showed pictures of the funerals of those killed,

accompanied by a commentary by the secretary general of the MPLA-Labor Party, Lucio Lara, who expressed the view that "the enemy has become more dangerous in its desperation." But it was the Soviet and Yugoslav news agencies, TASS and TANJUG, which gave figures: The former noted about 100 fatalities, including "Cuban civilian specialists," and the latter cited 20 Cubans and 10 Angolans killed, in addition to 70 wounded.

Hours later, in Paris, UNITA took credit for the act, and claimed that 200 persons had been killed, including three Soviet lieutenant colonels and 37 Cuban senior officers. Not until Monday did the Angolan agency ANGOP, give the official number of dead: 24 persons, 14 of whom were Cuban civilians and 10 were Angolan students and workers.

On Tuesday, before going to London, where he submitted to the Foreign Office the conditions for the release of 16 British subjects held hostage in Angola, the UNITA leader, Tito Chingui, stated that the guerrillas from the movement would now start carrying out urban guerrilla operations, predicting that the Cubans "will leave soon."

In view of this latest violent act condemned by France ("there is no justification for blind terrorism," remarked a spokesman in Paris), UNITA seems to want to show by force its "weight" in the Angolan-South African maneuver, attempting to get ahead of a negotiated solution between Luanda and Pretoria, which might possibly include the withdrawal of the Cubans, and which, along with the military reinforcement of the Angolan forces, could bring about a reduction in the amount of pressure brought to bear by Savimbi's guerrillas.

2909

CSO: 3442/357

MINISTER DISCUSSES ALL ASPECTS OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 22 Apr 84 pp 1, 12

[Interview with Agriculture Minister Evaristo Domingos, by Orlando Bento; date and location not specified]

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture will readjust its structures to the sector's real situation and progress, including a revision of its organizational statute, and granting greater autonomy to the provincial structures and those on other lower echelons. This measure is aimed at more and better service to the peasants in the area of technical-material supplies and supplies of goods to meet their basic needs. These plans and other current realities involving MINAGRI are disclosures contained in the interview that the head of this ministry, Evaristo Domingos ("Kimba"), of the party's Politburo, recently granted to our newspaper.

J.A.: The restructuring of the Ministry of Agriculture, aimed at improved operation of the sector, was recently announced. What action for immediate, intermediate and long-term implementation will be taken to achieve the desired revamping?

Kimba: I should say at the outset that the revamping will not be radical, but is necessary; it will readjust our structures to the current situation; because the previous organizational statute of the ministry, approved in 1977, is virtually obsolete. What we want is to adapt our operation to the changes in the sector's situation. Hence, we intend to give greater autonomy to our provincial and local structures, which will lend new dynamics to our work. Up until now, there has been great centralization among our structures, when we know that agriculture is not carried out in offices, but rather in the countryside. This will also enable us to take better advantage of the local initiatives, for the satisfactory progress of our work.

We are also considering the creation of a structure that would be concerned solely with technical-material supplies. Although we have enterprises such as DINAMA, ENAMA and ANGOSEMENTES, there is no centralizing structure on the ministerial level dealing specifically with the matter of supplies, for example, such as those of fuel, seed, etc. Up until now, it has been the planning office that has been concerned with this job. Consequently, this

office is doing everything except its real activity, which is planning. For this reason, we think that the creation of a new structure, that will be concerned with the provision of products and materials, through contacts with the suppliers, will solve many problems that we are experiencing at present.

J.A.: Comrade Kimba, our second question bears a certain relationship to the first one, and consists of the fact recently admitted by your Consultative Council, that it is the excessive red tape in your ministry's structures that has served as an element to stifle the harmonious relations with the direct producers, the peasants, in various respects. What concrete measures will be adopted to change the course of events?

Kimba: The comrade is correct in admitting the relationship between the two questions, but at any rate, there is one or more aspects that have not been brought up. With regard to the support for the peasants, I think that the situation will improve considerably with the autonomy that I mentioned earlier. We realize that it is not everywhere that we can provide the technical facilities for agriculture. Hence, we must view the backing for the peasants with a greater sense of responsibility.

Some time ago, the ministry gave the peasants a certain amount of organizational support, and also a certain amount of political support, which resulted in the formation of some peasant cooperative and associations in various parts of the country, but which was not accompanied by the proper material backup. However, there has been some political framework; but there has not been the necessary technical framework, because we have not taken to the rural areas the tools essential for production, for example, machetes, plows, etc., which would supplement the first part of the work. Hence, our attention will be directed toward greater technical-material backing for the peasants.

J.A.: The population's self-sufficiency in food by the next decade is a goal in your plans, according to your recent Consultative Council meeting. What will be done in that area, so as to accomplish this?

Kimba: With regard to this, I should say that this problem is not contingent merely on the Ministry of Agriculture. We simply have the initiative, and at our Consultative Council meeting we have devised a document that we call a "preliminary hypothesis for development of the agricultural-livestock sector, aimed at achieving our population's self-sufficiency in food." During the same Council meeting, we took care to observe that the materialization of this initiative of ours demands the pooling of efforts by several sectors of national activity. This is because, for example, we shall have to know the composition of our population and its most immediate needs, in order to find out the products in which this development should be given the greatest attention. Therefore, as you can see, it is a question with a cyclical solution. The first step has been taken, and the document that has been devised will be submitted to the party's National Conference, to be held this year.

J.A.: We also know that the current production is not sufficient to meet the population's food requirements, particularly of agricultural products, and

the little that is produced, in most instances, does not reach the consumer, because of detrimental factors associated with the marketing and removal of these products. Although this, too, is not a problem associated merely with the ministry that you head, what is your view regarding it?

Kimba: In fact, we must admit that the distribution is not currently satisfying our population, a fact that, in itself, is only aggravating the already low productivity of the agricultural sector. Meanwhile, with regard to this problem, we have proposed concrete measures to the Ministry of Internal Trade, and within a few days, we shall sign a protocol for joint agreement. This protocol stipulates that the enterprises of the two ministries most directly linked with the matter are to make agreements in which a determination will be made of which side is to blame for the damage resulting from the failure to remove products and their resultant spoilage. Hence, up until now we have noted a lack of sensitivity among the internal trade enterprises toward our products which are considered "perishable." We think that when they start to have greater sensitivity toward those products and feel responsible for removing them the work will be accomplished with greater speed.

We also think that another solution to the problem would be to enable the producing enterprises themselves, whether they be state-owned, private, mixed or cooperative, to market their own products in stalls in the public markets or in appropriate shops that would be indicated by us. But, of course, this means that they would have facilities of their own available, such as vehicles, scales, etc., and they would have the proper permission from the Ministry of Internal Trade. For example, we could set aside a certain store for the Kuanza Bengo Complex to market its products. But, in order to have that happen, it would have to be given credentials by MINCI.

Another system that we also regard as practical is the possibility that the hotel units might make contracts with the agricultural producing enterprises, in which it would also be specified whether the purchasing enterprise itself is responsible for transporting the products, or the seller. What we are seeking with all this is to prevent, to the maximum possible extent, any middlemen coming between buyers and sellers.

J.A.: But does this system take into consideration potential diversions of products for speculation?

Kimba: We have taken this factor into account, for which we already have a model guide that allows for the free circulation of agricultural products, the control of which is exercised in cooperation with the Ministries of Interior and Internal Trade. Although this control is not efficient at present, we think that, in the future, with the force of certain measures and the aid of the people's own vigilance, everything will work better.

J.A.: The comrade minister took up the question of technical-material support to the peasants very briefly, and with certain features. We would like you to discuss the question in greater depth, mentioning concrete prospects.

Kimba: I have not really talked about a significant measure that we intend to implement in the future. It involves the creation of enterprises for rendering services, to be known as "agricultural-livestock development stations," which will gradually be established all over the country. In our 1984-85 agricultural plan, we call for the establishment of 20 agricultural stations. Their essential goal will be to back the peasants in all activities, selling them machetes, hoes and other tools. However, these stations will not sell seed to the peasants. They will only distribute it by way of restitution, as follows:

Let's suppose that a certain station is supplying a given peasant, controlled or registered in a certain area, with the aid of the local administrative officials, 100 kilograms of peanut seed. At the end of his harvest, we shall simply require that he return to us the amount of seed that he has received, with the addition of a maximum percentage of 10. Obviously, unexpected situations in the industry will also be taken into account because, for example, a peasant may receive seed and be unable to return it, since there has been no rain and the crop has been damaged. Therefore, points such as this will be considered.

J.A.: Nevertheless, the comrade minister has not discussed the supply of consumer goods to peasants. Is that called for in the protocols that were signed with MINCI?

Kimba: You have just raised a very pertinent question. In fact, these protocols contained more obligations for the MINAGRI enterprises than for those of MINCI; for that very reason, their signing was delayed, so as to make a few changes in their clauses, since we think that the obligations should be mutual. Thus, the Internal Trade Ministry must guarantee the supply of foodstuffs to the territorial enterprises, establishing it in the stores under its control, or even that of MINAGRI, which will also be able to supply the peasants of the area, as has been occurring up until now in some places where these enterprises exist. This process means that the supply to be given by the Internal Trade Ministry to the territorial enterprises will not be based merely on the number of workers in them, but also on the number of peasants in the surrounding area who are also producing. We would do well to note that some of these enterprises are benefiting from support given by PAM (World Food Program), which enables them to meet the needs of their workers and of the peasants in the area.

J.A.: Comrade Minister, how do you view the issue of cadres in your ministry?

Kimba: I should say that, ever since we were called upon to head this ministry, that problem has always concerned us. As a first step, we intend to update the salary scale. We can even claim that there is no structure in the country with salaries as low as those in the agricultural structure. The salaries that we earn are not geared to our real working conditions. For example, we have cases of agronomical engineers or agricultural interns who prefer to work in other sectors, because they receive guarantees from the latter of better pay and better working conditions. This factor alone is a restriction on our having the necessary cadres. This concern is recorded in our fundamental programs this year.

J.A. In the past, the Ministry of Agriculture imported a large amount of machinery which is, nevertheless, idle. What, specifically, has happened to it, and what are the solutions?

Kimba: What has happened is that we confined ourselves to purchasing, without providing for the maintenance conditions. There are no spare parts, nor is there technical assistance. And this is the result. Not until now has the ministry considered creating maintenance structures. We are of the opinion that the best thing would be to make those selling machinery, in the future, install maintenance structures and provide technical assistance in the country.

J.A.: The final question that we would like to ask you is related to the service that is to be given to the coffee sector in the near future.

Kimba: We have a program for this sector devised in accordance with the emergency program, the fulfillment of which extends until 1986. For this plan, and based on our objectives, we have set as goals the attainment of figures amounting to 38,000 tons during the agricultural year 1983-84, 48,000 tons in the 1984-85 agricultural year and 56,000 tons in 1985-86. For this purpose, we must undertake a series of activities ranging from the recovery of nearly 90,000 hectares that are currently abandoned, to the integration of almost 30 workers into this sector. However, this is associated with the state sector.

We also realize that there is the peasant sector engaged in coffee growing. For this sector there is a sub-program that will begin with the removal of the previous production that is still being held by the peasants. As a second step, we shall create agrarian development enterprises that we have cited before, specifically for the coffee-growing sector, which will also oversee the improvement of the marketing system and support for the peasants who are engaged in coffee-growing. In brief, these are the features for which we are striving.

2909

CSO: 3442/361

BRIEFS

MINERAL PRODUCTION FIGURES--The national director of geology and mining industry, Augusto de Araujo, disclosed to ANGOP [Angolan Press Agency] that, during 1983, Angola produced 1,033,812 karats of diamonds, 1,403 cubic meters of black granite and 100 linear meters of marble. These figures, from which the production of quartz and phosphate are excluded, resulted in about 78.7 percent fulfillment of the plan for diamonds, and 100 percent for marble, while the granite production plan was exceeded by 43 percent. Augusto de Araujo said that supplementary efforts will be expended in other areas of mining exploitation, such as phosphates for agriculture, quartz and iron ore, and research on the impounding of subterranean water for the population. By way of example, he stressed that, for the phosphate meal, a plan has been put into execution aimed at reactivating the phosphate production complex in the province of Zaire, which has been shut down for 2 years; and the resumption of iron exploitation in the Kassinga mines, in Huila, is also anticipated soon. As for the glass and cement industries, Augusto Araujo said that they are supplied by their own quarries, and hence are dissociated from the mining industry. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 22 Apr 84 p 1] 2909

HUILA'S EDIPESCA FISH FIGURES--A report provided to ANGOP indicates that EDIPESCA [Regional Enterprise for Fishing] in Huila sold 1,300 tons of frozen fish and 400 tons of dried and semi-cured fish to the population during the past 3 months, for approximately 90 million kwanzas. According to the document, the fish distribution was not the most feasible type, because of the 13 municipalities in the province, some did not benefit from this important food for various reasons, such as lack of transportation and systems to preserve the product, and the politico-military situation. In this connection, as ANGOP learned, the municipality of Lubango was the most benefited in terms of quantity (900 tons), while the municipalities of Chicomba, Gambos, Cuvango and others received ridiculous amounts, owing to the reasons already cited. The report notes that the fish consumed in the province accounts for only 63 percent of the supply of dried and semi-cured fish planned. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 22 Apr 84 p 2] 2909

MINING FIGURES--During 1983, Angola produced 1,033,812 karats of diamonds and 1,403 cubic meters of black granite, according to a disclosure made to ANGOP [Angolan Press Agency] on Saturday by the Angolan director of geology and the mining industry. Not counting the exploration for quartz and phosphates, the national plans for mining exploration were fulfilled 78.7 percent in the area of diamonds, 100 percent for marble and 143 percent for granite. Moreover, Augusto de Araujo said that "supplementary efforts" would be expended in the other areas of mining exploration, such as phosphates for agriculture, quartz and iron ore, as well as in those of fishing and impounding underground water for use by the population. He announced that the phosphate production complex in the province of Zaire, which was shut down 2 years ago, would be reactivated and that the resumption of iron exploration in the mines of Cassinga, in Huila, is anticipated. [Text] [Lisbon DIARIO DE LISBOA in Portuguese 23 Apr 84 p 9] 2909

CSO: 3442/357

COMORO ISLANDS

FUTURE OF MAYOTTE DEBATED

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English 25 Apr 84 pp 5, 6

[Text] The debate on the future of the Indian Ocean Island of Mayotte is about to come to a head: France wants to cede the island to the Comoros; Mayotte's inhabitants want to remain "French."

The Mayotte problem stems from the 1976 vote by the island's 55,000 inhabitants to remain French after the other three Comoro islands (population 400,000) had declared independence. Under the revolutionary government of Ali Soilih in the Comoros, from 1975-8, the French were anxious to retain Mayotte. But since the restoration of the pro-French Comorian President Ahmed Abdallah, the retention of Mayotte by France has become an embarrassment. Though Mayotte has one deputy in the French National Assembly and one in the Senate, and is administered by a prefect, it does not have the status of a full French department (like Reunion) but is called an 'overseas territorial collectivity'. The French National Assembly has until 22 December 1984 to decide the future status of Mayotte.

We understand that President Francois Mitterrand, is in favour of ceding Mayotte to the Comoros, reached an agreement in principle with President Abdallah in January. In return, the Comoros are to provide France with an air base in the Comoros and a 99-year lease on naval facilities in Mayotte. They are also to include constitutional guarantees for the inhabitants of Mayotte, known as Mahorais. Foreign minister Claude Cheysson and the Elysee's Guy Penne are likewise in favour of handing over Mayotte. (The UN general assembly has adopted a resolution calling on France to hand Mayotte to the Comoros). The Elysee was behind two key redeployments in January: the prefect of Mayotte, Christian Pellerin, was sacked after promising that Mayotte would stay "French" if the majority of the population wished; and Jean Motpezat, a key official at the State Secretariat for Overseas Departments and Territories and an advocate of keeping Mayotte French, was reposted.

Despite these moves there are lot of obstacles to ceding Mayotte:

1. A majority of Mahorais are in favour of retaining the French connexion. France's Secretary of state for overseas departments and territories, Georges Lemoine, has the job of trying to secure a majority in favour of reunification in time for a referendum later this year. So far he does not seem to have made much impact on any of Mayotte's political potentates.

2. There is no real coordination between French government departments. Cheysson's ministry is now taking the lead on the Mayotte issue, but the overseas departments' secretariat, the prime Minister's office and the Elysee all continue to take an interest. When former ambassador Jean-Pierre Campredon led a mission to the Comoros in February to discuss details of a handover agreement, he missed his objectives largely because of inadequate preparation.

3. President Abdallah is planning to stand for re-election as Comorian president before the end of 1984. Domestic opposition groups, led by the Front Democratique, but including a number of Comorian technocrats, are arguing that the spectacle of President Abdallah's manipulation of the election and arrest of political opponents will do nothing to change the Mahorais' minds about joining the Comoros.

4. Most important of all, the three Mayotte representatives (deputy Jean Paul Hory, Senator Marcel Henry and president of the general council, Younoussa Bamana) are all against cession to the Comoros. Hory, who is also secretary-general of the Movement des Radicaux de Gauche party, the junior member of France's coalition government, has been particularly adept at recruiting support in France. His argument that the status of Mayotte can only be changed by a referendum of the Mahorais, attracts support from representatives of other overseas departments and territories. It also has the support of the French right, who argue that the constitution forbids the cession of any French territory without consulting the local populace in a referendum. Recent stories in the French right-wing press that Belgian mercenary Bob Denard, one of President Abdallah's key supporters, plans to invade Mayotte with a mercenary force, are signs of skilful rumour-mongering by the Mahorais representatives and their friends. Hory has promised to try and lead his party out of the coalition government if Mayotte loses its French status.

The Strategic Stakes

Developments on Mayotte are of interest to the other powers which have an interest in the Indian Ocean. The most closely involved is South Africa, which has made considerable penetration in the Comoros in recent years, largely through Denard's mercenaries. Denard and Commandant Charles, head of President Abdallah's bodyguard, arranged Abdallah's secret trip to Pretoria in April 1983. South African plans to develop the Comoros as a holiday centre were abandoned, partly because of pressure from France and Saudi Arabia. South Africa continues to look for openings.

There is also growing South African influence in the Seychelles (AC Vol 24 No 17) which gives a discreet welcome to South African tourists and has softened its foreign policy stance since the appointment of rising star Maxime Ferrari as foreign minister to replace the pro-Soviet Jacques Hodoul. In December 1983 the South African security services acted promptly to break up a conspiracy to destabilise the Seychelles government of President Albert Rene. (Three years before the South Africans turned a blind eye to the invasion plans of mercenary Mike Hoare, now in jail in South Africa). The South Africans will also be watching who replaces left-winger Guy Sinon, soon to retire as secretary-general of the ruling Seychelles People's Patriotic Front (SPPF).

Pretoria is likewise satisfied in the easing of its relations with Mauritius, which adopted a hostile stance under the Mouvement Militant Mauricien government which split up last year. The key figure in improving relations between Mauritius and South Africa is deputy prime minister Sir Gaetan Duval.

The American government is happy to see the strengthening of French and South African interests in the Indian Ocean islands but aims principally to build up its own military bases there. This month the US administration requested congress for \$627m of emergency credits to strengthen its military position in the Indian Ocean. It includes a request of \$22.9m for further work on the military base at Diego Garcia because of the threat to shipping in the straits of Hormuz. (For the same reason the US is constructing a large base in Oman).

The Soviet Union is clearly alarmed by the American military build-up in the Indian Ocean, especially with the decline of Soviet influence in Mozambique, Madagascar and the Seychelles. The US and the Indian Ocean was the main item on the agenda in talks between Soviet defence minister Marshal Ustinov and Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi in March. After the talks, a joint statement called for the creation of a nuclear-free 'zone of peace' in the Indian Ocean. The idea, recommended by the UN General Assembly in 1981, is popular with the non-aligned countries of the region. The US government is officially willing to encourage the zone of peace idea but privately regards it as a Soviet invention, and is doing its best to kill the projected Indian Ocean conference due to be held in Sir Lanka in 1985.

CSO: 3400/973

ETHIOPIA

MENGISTU ADDRESSES AIR FORCE GRADUATES

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 6 May 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] DEBRE ZEIT (ENA)--Since the desire of peace-loving forces alone cannot guarantee peace, they should nevertheless remain capable of defending themselves from attacks directed against them.

This was stated by Comrade Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the PMAC and of COPWE and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, here yesterday while presenting diplomas and prizes to the 14th batch of cadets who completed a training course at the revolutionary Ethiopia Air Force educational centre.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu said that in a situation where imperialists prefer force to peace, it is self-evident that peace-loving forces would never sit idle with folded arms.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu said: "Much as we have an obligation of building and strengthening our defence force on a firm foundation, this is not to mean that we are eager for war or that we have interest in enjoying forceful pride."

The aim of our struggle is to improve the livelihood of the working masses of Ethiopia who had suffered from exploitation and oppression for many years," said Comrade Chairman Mengistu adding, "it would have been our great pleasure if these efforts had been attained peacefully."

"However, beyond using conspiracy based on their economic and political might, imperialists have opted to resort to military force and this has become more critical than ever before," Comrade Chairman Mengistu said.

The Revolutionary Leader stressed that enemies of the Revolution would take every action to hamper the struggle for the formation of the Workers Party of Ethiopia since they know that it provides the way for the ultimate success of the struggle.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu added whatever the enemies do the country's defence force is based on an immense participation of the broad masses of Ethiopia, and would as such foil forever their sinister aspiration.

Speaking earlier, Comrade Brig. Gen. Solomon Begashaw, Commandant of the Air Force Training Centre, said that the Air Force is living up to its responsibilities in accordance with directives it receives from the Revolutionary Government and COPWE. He noted the growth and progress of the Air Force as part of the process of further strengthening the national defence force. He expressed the Air Force's readiness to pay all sacrifices to defend the Revolution, the country's air space and the territorial integrity of the Motherland.

Comrade Brig. Gen. Solomon said that the Air Force had organised its schools and had modernized their curricula. He stated that the cadets, in addition to military science, had followed university level academic courses and ideological education.

When Comrade Chairman Mengistu arrived at the Debre Zeit Air Force compound yesterday morning, he was welcomed by Comrade Brig. Gen. Fanta Belay, Commander of the Revolutionary Ethiopia Air Force and COPWE Central Committee member, and senior force commanders.

A guard of honour which presented arms was later inspected by Comrade Chairman Mengistu. The cadets made a march past and this followed by the presentation of cups, prizes and diplomas.

Following the graduation ceremony, Comrade Chairman Mengistu inspected the modern food organising and processing unit set up by the Air Force's development and production department.

Present at the ceremony were Comrade Fisseha Desta, PMAC Assistant Secretary General and COPWE Executive Committee member, Comrade Addis Tedla, PMAC Standing Committee member, Deputy Chairman of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council and COPWE Executive Committee member, Comrade Teka Tulu, PMAC Standing Committee and COPWE Central Committee member, ministers and other invited guests.

CSO: 3400/970

CONTROL COMMITTEES DETERMINED TO ERADICATE INJUSTICES

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 1 May 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] The Working People's Control Committees will, through the participation of the working masses, combat and eradicate with determination social and administrative injustices hatched and propagated by reactionaries.

The statement was made by Comrade Makonnen Gizaw, Chairman of the National Working People's Control Committee, in connection with the second anniversary of the establishment of the committee.

Comrade Makonnen said in a press statement that the activities of the working people's control committees operating from the basic to the national levels have been conducted by five regional, eight provincial, two district and 412 basic level offices. He noted that a total of 8,745 cases have been cited for investigation out of which 6,319 are presently being cleared. While decisions have already been given on 2,344 cases 82 others have been submitted to the court upon completion of investigation, Comrade Makonnen said.

A total of 14 million birr has been saved through the co-ordination of efforts of government departments and mass organizations, regulation of fuel utilisation, making use of property considered unnecessary, ensuring the clearing of bank payments and other related duties, Comrade Makonnen noted, adding that considerable progress had been scored particularly in the payment of bank loans and credits.

In addition, said Comrade Makonnen, an income of 12 million birr has been secured as a result of control work in the area of contraband dealings, Hararghe accounting for seven million birr of the total.

Comrade Makonnen further explained the achievements of the working people's control committees in the collection of taxes, distribution of commodities, storage of harvests and implementation of relevant proclamations and rules and regulations.

Comrade Makonnen said that the committee had received of the misappropriation of 26 million birr work of government property out of which property worth 18 million birr had been restored and 1.6 million birr in cash had been regained. He added that the committee had brought back an amount of 125,347.39 dollars sent to be concealed abroad.

In the efforts being made to curb contraband trade, tight control has been made on the illicit export of cattle, coffee and gold, Comrade Makonnen said, and added that 650,000 dollars worth of mineral products have been confiscated. He said that 80 million birr worth of property has been misused of which 22 million birr worth has been brought under control adding 2.1 million birr in cash has been secured.

Comrade Makonnen also noted the contribution of the national control committee to the banks and water and sewerage authority in helping the two organizations expedite their work.

Comrade Makonnen spoke of the future plans of the committee and said that efforts will be made to ensure proper distribution of basic commodities, contraband trade, preserve the country's wildlife resources and encourage more public participation in the control activities.

Meanwhile, a pictorial exhibition depicting the major activities undertaken by the Workers' Control Committees established at different levels during the past two years went on display at the National Workers Control Committee office here yesterday.

The exhibition was visited by Comrade Mekonnen Gizaw, chairman of the National Workers' Control Committee, a representative of the Control and Discipline Department of COPWE, members of the National Workers Control Committee, COPWE representatives for Addis Ababa and Shoa, as well as representatives of government agencies and mass organizations and of workers control committees organized at different levels.

Yesterday's visitors, numbering around 500, also observed how property is handled by the National Workers Control Committee and its internal managerial system.

The exhibition on display in connection with the second anniversary of the establishment of the National Workers Control Committee is to be visited by members of government and mass organizations.

CSO: 3400/970

ETHIOPIA

PEASANTS' ASSOCIATION OUTLINES WORK PROGRAM

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 4 May 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] The third regular meeting of the committee of the All Ethiopia Peasant's Association wound up here yesterday after approving its work programme for the coming six months.

The meeting noted that it was necessary more than ever before to give considerable attention to expand socialist production relations in rural Ethiopia and to set up and consolidate peasants' producers co-operatives with the aim of developing the productive forces.

The meeting also stressed the contributions which peasants are making in support of the rural development endeavours of the Revolutionary Government aimed at raising the living standard of the masses.

In this regard, the meeting underscored the special responsibility entrusted to peasants for the success of development projects underway during the preparation for the tenth anniversary celebration of the Ethiopian Revolution and for party formation. It called upon the peasants to extend support to state farms and to rural development projects.

The support which peasants associations should give to families of militiamen as well as to the handicapped and the attention they should pay to education and to the literacy programme were also emphasised by the meeting.

A call was also made by the meeting for the co-operation of peasants association in controlling illegal trade, implementation of the National Military Service and the Population Census and Housing Registration Project and the expansion of campaigns for afforestation.

Closing the meeting, Comrade Abdella Sonnessa, Chairman of the All Ethiopia Peasants' Association, said that peasant association officials at different levels have a heavy responsibility of ensuring that the decisions of the meeting were translated into deeds. He reminded the participants and the masses of peasants to prepare themselves for greater victories under the guidance of the Revolutionary Government and COPWE.

CSO: 3400/970

ETHIOPIA

BRIEFS

COPWE ORGAN EDITOR--Comrade Tesfaye Tadesse, Editor-in-Chief of Serto Ader, organ of the Central Committee of COPWE and COPWE Central Committee member, yesterday left for Moscow to attend a Soviet "Press Day" to be staged next Saturday. Prior to his departure, Comrade Tesfaye said that during his stay he will take part in a meeting in which editors-in-Chief of the USSR press and progressive journalists from various countries will be participating in the event. Comrade Tesfaye noted that the meeting will deliberate on major current international issues, consolidation of world peace and solidarity and the role of progressive journalists in combating imperialist propaganda. The Editor-in-Chief of Serto Ader further noted that he will exchange views with his Soviet counterpart on issues of mutual interest which would provide opportunity to promote exchange of experience between the two CC organs. Comrade Tesfaye is attending the Soviet "Press Day" on the invitation extended to him by the Editor-in-Chief of Pravda, organ of the CC of the CPSU. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 3 May 84 p 1]

AGRICULTURAL CHANGES STRESSED--Special attention should be given to projects devised under the leading Ten-year Perspective Plan that would promote the co-ordination of development in rural areas. This was stated by Serto Ader, organ of the Central Committee of COPWE, in its editorial yesterday. In connection with the special role of rural development, Serto Ader said that development and service institutions engaged in this field must intensity their efforts so that inter-sectoral activities would be properly co-ordinated. Serto Ader focused on the shortcomings in the agricultural sector at present pointing out that although it was endowed with immense wealth and engages the major portion of the country's labour force, it had not as yet been able to feed adequately urban dwellers and to supply industries sufficiently with raw materials. Much remains to be done in the agricultural sector to increase agricultural produce both in kind and in amount and secure the necessary foreign exchange earnings that would facilitate the inflow of technology from abroad, Serto Ader observed. The paper described as crucial the need to change the present methods of agricultural production by employing science and technology. It said that the country's rich and fertile natural resources must be made to enhance progress based on the objective conditions in the country, the rich manpower available and the deployment of creative potentials. Organizational changes as well as changes in methods and operation must be carried out in rural areas in the light of the target of socialist construction, Serto Ader further observed. The paper noted the endeavours of

the Revolutionary Government and COPWE and said that much as the country's mainstay is agriculture, its wealth mostly emerge from the proper use of its soil and manpower. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 4 May 84 p 1]

PARTY FORMATION--Discussions were held here yesterday by workers of different organizations in connection with the forthcoming tenth anniversary celebration of the Ethiopian Revolution and the Formation of the Workers Party of Ethiopia. The workers were those of the Telecommunications Authority, the Addis Ababa Water Supply and Sewerage Services Authority, the Ethiopian Domestic distribution Corporation, the Rental Housing Administration and the Ethiopian Tourist Trade Corporation. During the meetings, organized by the COPWE primary organizations, the workers were briefed on the significance of the Marxist-Leninist party, the movement of the international proletariat and the question of organization. At the opening of the meeting held at different assembly halls, primary COPWE organization representatives called on workers to fulfil their duties in the political field and in areas of production in the light of the forthcoming Revolution day anniversary and party formation. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 6 May 84 p 1] Discussion forums were held yesterday for the benefit of employees of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Rental Housing Administration as part of the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the revolution and party formation. Briefings were given on the history of proletarian struggle, party formation, and the Popular Revolution in the perspective of organization. Comrade Capt. Tesfa Abebe and Abebe Hassan, COPWE basic organization representative for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Rental Housing Administration, respectively spoke at the two separate gatherings stressing the significance of party formation and the tenth anniversary of the Revolution and of the importance attached to preparations for the dual historic event. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 3 May 84 p 1]

DETAILS ON AEPA--The third regular meeting of the Central Committee of the All-Ethiopia Peasants Association (AEPA) opened at the association's assembly hall here yesterday. The meeting was opened by Comrade Abdella Sonessa, Chairman of AEPA, who presented the progress report of the Central Committee of AEPA. In his report, Comrade Abdella disclosed that as a result of the effort to organize the peasantry, 1,275 producers' cooperatives embracing over 79,800 members have been established at all levels, 129 of which are legally certified. The AEPA Chairman also revealed that over 3,800 service cooperatives have been made operational to provide service to over 4,000,000 families organized under 16,845 kebele peasants associations. Comrade Abdella also pointed out that due to the conductive atmosphere created by the Revolution and the active participation of the peasantry in development activities, 90 clinics, 192 formal schools, 2,356 stores, 1,311 grain mills and similar other facilities have been brought into service. [Excerpt] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 1 May 84 pp 1, 5]

CSO: 3400/970

MOZAMBIQUE

RNM REPORTEDLY AT MAPUTO'S FRONT DOOR

Lisbon O DIABO in Portuguese 17 Apr 84 p 20

[Article by Filipe de Oliveira: "Maputo Increasingly Threatened by RENAMO Guerrillas"]

[Text] Harare--At present Maputo is facing the most serious threat since Mozambique became independent in June 1975, because the guerrillas from RENAMO, or Mozambican National Resistance, are now operating a few kilometers from the capital.

In December of last year, about 100 RNM combatants crossed the Incomati and began launching attacks in the Maputo area; but up until now, the government forces have proven incapable of detecting or confronting those guerrilla fighters.

Moamba, a settlement 40 kilometers from the capital, and Marraquene (only 30 kilometers away) have also had their respective headquarters attacked and destroyed. The international railroad between Maputo and South Africa was sabotaged during February, 22 kilometers from Maputo, between the latter city and Moamba. Meanwhile, several clashes took place only 7 kilometers from the city's outskirts.

For a long time, the connections to the North have been under the guerrillas' surveillance and control. Now, the routes to the West (leading to South Africa and Swaziland) are starting to be affected. Finally, last week, the greatest attack that has taken place in the Moamba area aroused fear among the citizens in the capital itself: Maputo remained in darkness. The cables from South Africa of a power transformer substation were sabotaged and destroyed by the rebels near Moamba.

It should be noted that the electricity consumed by Maputo originates in the South African Republic. The old thermal powerplant which operated with coal, located in the area surrounding the city, will have only enough power to supply its vital points. Near the capital there is reportedly a group of old generators belonging to the railroads, and operating with gas oil. However, they are said to have a very low output, and at this point there may not be enough fuel in Maputo to allow for their operation.

Meanwhile, it has also been learned that the capital's water supply has been seriously upset since yesterday, and there is every indication that another act of sabotage is involved.

A source from the RNM contacted by me today here in Harare told me that this is actually "the beginning of the end" for the government of Samora Machel in Maputo. "Maputo is in the dark today. The damage may be repaired, but one thing is certain: the sabotaging of these lines will be constant and, just as has happened in Cabo-Bassa, they will be inoperative."

The same source added: "Up until now, we have had only about 100 men operating south of Incomati. As of this week, it has not been 100, but rather over 1,000 guerrilla fighters operating in this area, who will complete the encirclement of the capital. The routes to the South, West and North will be gradually and completely seized. The airport itself will be within reach of our weapons. The only safe entrance to Maputo will be the eastern area, facing the Indian Ocean. Our forces are approaching the capital more closely every day. Before long, the roar of our mortars and heavy artillery will be heard there. Machel has not deterred the progress of our 100 fighters. How is he going to stop 1,000 or 1,500, who have been trained hard and who are heavily equipped and motivated? How will the FRELIMO [Mozambique Liberation Front] troops react when the guerrilla action starts taking place inside Maputo itself?"

The same spokesman explained, with regard to the death of the assistant editor of NOTICIAS DO MAPUTO, Pedro Jivane, who was killed by guerrillas from the Resistance as he was driving in his car along National Street No. 1, that the execution of a plan of urban terrorism has not been precluded:

"The punitive purpose of the death of Jivane, who was by no means innocent in the process of communizing Mozambique, may have been served by the guerrillas with the placement of armored cars next to the facilities vital to the regime (such as those of NOTICIAS), just like what is happening regularly in Beirut or in the attacks in Pretoria. The members of the Resistance, either because of practical limitations or because of the strategy of their struggle, have not taken that course of action yet. The propaganda campaign started by FRELIMO and extended abroad, has, however, attempted to depict the Tivane case as a massacre, marked by malicious features; which is completely out of proportion and false."

On the other hand, it is known that truck drivers from Zimbabwe and owners of trucking companies are considering stopping all traffic along the road connecting Mozambique and Zambia, and the road to Malawi, a highway which crosses the Mozambican province of Tete. The insecurity and ambushes have been increasing to a shocking degree recently on Mozambican roads; and, this week, another eight trucks were destroyed and their loads burned by the guerrillas, upon traveling through Tete Province between Malawi and Zimbabwe. All the FRELIMO troops escorting the aforementioned vehicles were shot down by the members of the Resistance.

The essential thing, however, is the fact that the guerrillas are approaching Maputo, and the saboteurs are succeeding in depriving the Mozambican capital of electric power. What will come next and where the next attack will be is what is being asked by all observers.

2909

CSO: 3442/357

INCREASED EXPLOITATION OF LAKE TANZANIA URGED

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 9 May 84 p 4

[Article by George Nyembela: "Where Is the Fish?"]

[Text] BLESSED with a long coastline and bordering on three of the world's great lakes, Tanzania should be a land of fish, but at present, the majority of the people have very little or no access at all to the precious protein source.

The country has 58,000 square kilometres of fishing ground in fresh waters in the great lakes, inland lakes, rivers and dams--and 12,000 square kilometres of fishing grounds along the Indian Ocean.

According to a scientific research on the marine resources in the country's coastal waters conducted by the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD), Tanzania can catch 100,000 tonnes of fish per year without causing any effect in her waters. But the country's present capacity stood at only 50,000 tonnes.

Preliminary results of feasibility studies conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Lake Victoria and Tanganyika show that there are 200,000 tonnes of fish out of which about 80 per cent are Tilapia.

The United Nations Agreement on the Law of the sea allocating littoral states 200 kilometres further into the sea along the coastal belt would add more fishing grounds for the country.

According to official reports, the situation in the fishing industry is not encouraging because fishing is mainly done by traditional fishermen. There has been very little commercialisation so far.

These fishermen use traditional equipment and outdated methods which cannot effect enough catch to meet the big demand for fish. The gear used includes fishing lines, fences and dug-out or rowing boats whose operations often depended on sails.

At a recent seminar to review marine resources of Tanzania held at the Mbegani Fisheries Institute in Bagamoyo, it was observed that local fishermen are approaching the upper limits of exploitation on their traditional fishing grounds.

According to a paper presented by Dr. John Tarbit of the London-based Overseas Development Administration, this is especially true of the extreme northern and southern coasts where the shelf is narrow and largely occupied by heavily exploited reef:

Dr. Tarbit pointed out however that records suggest that catches per fisherman have increased significantly since the early seventies because of the introduction of nylon gill-nets, which he said have increased from 2,900 in 1971 to 12,000 in 1981.

Difficulties in getting fishing gear was identified by the seminar as one of the reasons which lead to the use of dynamite by many fishermen.

Opening the three-day seminar the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Ndugu Herman Kirigini called for steps to halt dynamite fishing in Tanzania's coastal line which destroyed fish and their eggs as well as their hatcheries.

The Minister said that the use of dynamite has been destroying coral reefs which are the breeding, feeding and hiding grounds for fish.

Ndugu Kirigini said it was high time that area was reserved to fishermen who have already evolved diverse and specialised techniques.

The introduction of short courses for fishermen at Mbegani Centre starting this July aim at helping fishermen adopt modern ways of fishing and abandon the use of dynamite. The course which would focus on fishing methods would also aim at reducing post-harvest losses.

The fishermen would also be trained both at Mbegani and at their localities on how to design and construct cheap seaworthy vessels.

Fishing in the country was a neglected industry until 1975, when the government established the Tanzania Fishing Company (TAFICO) to engage in the development and promotion of fishing in the country.

Since its take-off however, TAFICO has had a chequered career and only generated profit for the first time last year, after acquiring a modern fishing vessel, Mama Tafico from Japan in 1982.

Mama Tafico which has a 47-tonne capacity is a multi-purpose vessel fitted with a big fuel tank, water tank, as well as modern processing and freezing equipments. It can also service other fishing trawlers owned by TAFICO to enable them to stay at sea for a longer period.

The TAFICO General Manager, Ndugu Raynald Mrope, attributed the increased earning to good performance by "Mama Tafico" which alone landed 82 tonnes of fish and 100 tonnes of prawns worth nine million shillings.

Since the arrival of Mama Tafico the company's production has been increasing. The corporation realised 16 m/- in 1983 compared to 6.5m/- in 1982. This year's target is to raise its landings to about 800 tonnes of fish and prawns worth 20 m/-.

The General Manager told participants at the Bagamoyo seminar that TAFICO planned to acquire two more vessels of the size of "Mama Tafico" before the end of this year and also rehabilitate one old boat. The move would improve TAFICO's operations.

In 1982, the World Bank, through the International Development Association (IDA) provided a loan of 90m/- for the establishment of the Rufiji Fishing Company (RUFICO) and the Bagamoyo Fishing Company (BAFICO) in Rufiji and Bagamoyo districts respectively.

The two fishing companies were to collaborate with TAFICO to boost the fishing industry in the country along the coastline to increase fishing production, to earn the most needed fish protein and bring foreign exchange from fish sells.

The two small fishing companies, however, have faced the chronic problem of lack of modern vessels to fish in deep waters.

Presenting a paper on the situation in fishery in the small fishing company at the Bagamoyo seminar, the representative of BAFICO, Ndugu G. Nanyaro said his company's daily catch rate per boat was decreasing, which meant that its operations could not be sustained.

Ironically, their operations in collaboration with TAFICO was also pushing the two smaller organisations out of business.

Unlike TAFICO vessels, all the BAFICO fishing vessels are small boats built at Bagamoyo. Taking into consideration that before TAFICO acquired the modern vessel it also faced similar problems, there is a need for these fish industries to acquire large vessels which have the ability to fish in different water depths.

CSO: 3400/967

CLOSE RELATIONS WITH DPRK REPORTED

Assembly Delegation

Victoria NATION in English 10 May 84 p 1

[Text]

THE visiting delegation from the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK took a day off talks with party and government leaders yesterday to visit agricultural, education and information establishments on Mahé.

Led by Mr. Yang Hyong Sop, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, and accompanied by Member's of Seychelles' own People's Assembly, the four-man delegation visited Radio-Television Seychelles' TV studios at Hermitage, the cinnamon dis-

tillery at Anse aux Pins and the Anse Royale campus of the Seychelles Polytechnic.

After a visit to Praslin today, the Korean visitors will visit the Ste. Anne National Youth Service Village on Friday.

The delegation, which has met Head of State and SPPF leader Albert René, Seychelles People's Progressive Front Secretary-General Guy Sinon, People's Assembly Chairman John Mascarenhas and other SPPF and Government leaders over the past few days, leaves the Republic on Sunday.

Cement, Other Gifts

Victoria NATION in English 11 May 84 pp 1, 10

[Text]

A SHIP bearing a gift of 500 tonnes of cement and education, sports and creche equipment should arrive in Seychelles from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea soon, Minister Maxime Ferrari was told yesterday during talks in Pyongyang.

According to reports from

the DPRK capital, the Seychellois Planning and External Relations Minister received an enthusiastic welcome from hundreds of cheering people when he arrived in the country on Tuesday on the last leg of his Asian tour.

The Minister was met at the airport by the Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, Mr. Kim Yong Nam, with whom he had

an exchange of views on international and regional affairs, on Wednesday. The two men shared mutual understanding on issues concerning the Non-Aligned Movement, South-South co-operation and the necessity to resolve international disputes through peaceful means and dialogue.

They also reviewed bilateral relations and praised each other's achievements.

At a banquet held on Wednesday night in his honour, Minister Ferrari reiterated Seychelles' support for the DPRK's proposal for tripartite talks (involving the DPRK, South Korea and the United States of America) to reunify the artificially divided Korean peninsula.

In return, Minister Kim Yong-Nam expressed his country's support for Seychelles' proposal to convert the Indian Ocean into a nuclear-free zone.

Yesterday morning the Seychellois Minister held talks on economic co-operation with

Mr. Jong Song Nam, who is in charge of External Economic Affairs, and was told of the gifts aboard the Korean ship.

Minister Ferrari was also received by Prime Minister Kang Song San on behalf of President Kim Il Sung, and exchanged greetings and support for the two countries' struggles for economic development.

Dr. Ferrari is expected to leave Pyongyang today for home after a three-week tour that started in Australia and also took him to New Zealand, Fiji and China.

This will not be the first time a Korean ship sails into Port Victoria laden with assorted gifts for the Seychellois people. In 1982 the freighter "Hyok-sin" arrived with 5,000 tonnes of gifts worth R6 million and last year the "Oh San Tok" unloaded another R2 million worth.

The gifts ranged from tractors, cement and construction steel to toys, musical instruments and hand tools.

CSO: 3400/967

NEW EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS PLANNED

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 12 May 84 p 4

[Text]

THERE was a desperate need for adequate and efficient communication between the Department of Education and Training and the community, the Minister, Mr Barend du Plessis, said.

"I therefore have great pleasure in announcing what we believe to be an exciting development in the restructuring of communication between the Department and the various communities which it serves," he said in debate on his Department's budget vote.

The proposed structure had two elements, Mr Du Plessis said.

"Firstly, it deals with the parent community. The Council for Education and Training consists of 24 members and has seven regional committees consisting of 13 members.

"All regional committee members are appointed by the Minister, according to a certain formula, in order to be representative of various areas of community life. The seven regional chairmen are ex-officio members of the Council."

Mr Du Plessis said regular, structured contact would, therefore, take place at the highest level between the Minister and the senior officials on the one hand, and the Council and regional committees on the other.

"At community level, however, we have more than 2 000 school committees and governing councils, and more than 2 000 parent-teacher associa-

tions. The gap between these bodies and the regional committees is obvious. As recommended by the Council for Education and Training, we now not only recognise the small number of informal bodies constituted by school committee chairmen on a community basis, but will in future encourage and assist in their establishment."

This step, he said, would enable the Council through its regional committees not only to maintain dynamic contact with the various communities, but created the possibility of democratising the community leg of the communication structure.

"It is envisaged that when the term of office of the present Council and regional committees expires at the end of 1987, the composition of both the regional committees and Council will be adapted to accommodate elected representatives from the school committees."

The skills thus obtained, he said, would be supplemented by ministerial appointments from the ranks of acknowledged specialists, as was the case today.

"The Council will probably then consist of 14 elected members who came through the ranks, and 10 appointed members, chaired by a person appointed by the Minister."

Secondly, there was the question of pupil representa-

tion. Pupils, Mr Du Plessis said, needed a representative body, elected by themselves, to speak to the authorities on their behalf.

"Pupils are not students in the tertiary educational sense of the word. It is silly to call their representative body an SRC since SRC's are only found at universities and technicons, where they are appropriate."

It had been decided, therefore, to establish a liaison committee at every Black secondary school for two reasons:

- To look each other in the eye and discuss school issues among themselves; and

- to provide a channel for the submission directly to the Minister of any form of written representation.

"The creation of these structures and the democratising of existing and new bodies, in our view, is not only a positive response to suggestions which have been coming from the various communities themselves, but provide an exciting challenge to all."

"We realise that it is open to abuse, but that is the risk of taking responsibility anywhere. We have faith in the ability of the people for whom these structures and procedures are created, to use it to their benefit and not their detriment," Mr Du Plessis said.

ARMSCOR'S REACTION TO HEY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS SCORED

Cape Town THE CAPE TIMES in English 30 Apr 84 p 9

[Text]

IN AN open letter to the chairman of Armscor, Commandant Piet Marais, the Dolphin Action and Protection Group (DAPG) has rejected as "inadequate" Armscor's comments on the Hey Committee recommendations regarding whales off De Hoop.

The secretary of the DAPG, Mrs Nan Rice, said on Friday that Armscor had agreed only "in principle" to five of the Hey Committee Report's seven recommendations while agreeing with qualifications to two.

"No entity or individual agrees to keep the law 'in principle,'" she said. "Compliance with the law is a matter of fact."

Calving

The DAPG considered Armscor's unqualified agreement to avoid disturbance of the southern right whale essential to their recovery because:

- Twenty-five to 30 percent of the known calving of the small population of right whales visiting the South African coast occurred off De Hoop.

- Their numbers were

still only between 478 and 614, although they were believed to be the world's largest single population of these whales.

- They were probably the most endangered of the world's great whales.

Numbers increasing

International protection had been agreed upon in 1935. Since the DAPG's proposal in 1980, the South African Government had also established national regulations strictly protecting whales.

Based on the recommendations of last year's International Whaling Commission's (IWC) Right Whale Workshop, Mrs Rice said she had also asked Armscor for independent monitoring of the effects on the whales of Armscor's activities.

Monitoring of the whale activities should be sent to the IWC since the whales were "not South African but international animals".

A further area of concern was that South Africa had retired its only official whale scientist who was recognized by the IWC for his work on right whales.

CSO: 3400/969

SOUTH AFRICA

SAFAIR TAKES OVER SEARCH-AND-RESCUE OPERATIONS

Cape Town THE CAPE TIMES in English 28 Apr 84 p 4

[Text]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The government announced this week that Safair, the South African air freight company, would take over long-distance search and rescue operations over the sea from the Air Force.

Recently it was announced that the South African Air Force's long-serving Shackleton aircraft would be phased out by the end of the year and that they could not be replaced because of the arms embargo.

In a White Paper tabled in Parliament yesterday, the government accepted "in principle" a number of recommendations by the Margo Commission into Civil Aviation for the improvement of air-sea emergency rescue operations.

It also said the Department of Transport would take over the operation of the Rescue Co-ordination Centre from the Air Force, since "the SAAF could no longer perform this function owing to its operational commitments and security needs".

"It was also decided that aircraft belonging to Safair would be suitably-equipped to undertake long-distance search and rescue operations over water, and that their aircrews should receive the appropriate training."

Arrangements had already been made to compensate companies involved in search operations conducted on request.

In its report, the Margo Commission called on the government to take the initiative in forming a joint emergency service with neighbouring countries, other states in Southern Africa and countries such as Mauritius, Malagasy, Brazil and Argentine.

It called for the formation of the Southern African Civil Aviation Convention (Safcac) as a humanitarian service for all.

The White Paper did not specifically refer to this proposal, but accepted it in principle. It could result in improved emergency services for air disasters forming part of Prime Minister P W Botha's peace initiative in the sub-continent.

The commission also made a number of proposals for emergency services, including greater co-ordination, the establishment of a mobile counter-disaster task unit and the location of dinghies at state airports near the sea.

CSO: 3400/969

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON BLACK EDUCATION REPORTED

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 12 May 84 p 4

[Text]

THE number of Black schoolchildren in South Africa had increased from some 800 000 in the 1950s to more than five million today and the Department of Education and Training was faced with a massive and extremely sensitive task which was by its very nature a political one, the Minister, Mr Barend du Plessis, said yesterday.

Speaking at the start of the budget debate on his portfolio, he said the Department employed more than 40 000 Black teachers at over 7 000 schools, with annual additional pupil registrations amounting to more than 60 000.

"We construct between 11 and 14 additional classrooms per working day and we find ourselves daily and continuously in a crush where our efforts

are concentrated on helping a mass of people to help themselves.

Labour

"We are a labour-intensive industry, irreversibly bound to a high degree of manual labour," Mr Du Plessis said.

However welcome, contributions from well-meaning bystanders on the sidelines could not make a substantial and lasting impression on progress.

"Essentially, the momentum for the ultimate successful fulfilling of our lofty ideals in Black education must come from within the communities themselves."

White teachers could supplement the teaching force in Black education only to a very limited extent, and this would be the case even if education were integrated into a single department.

Upgrade

Teachers for Black chil-

dren would have to come from the Black community itself and it was therefore essential to re-educate teachers and upgrade their qualifications, as well as to ensure teachers of the right quality were recruited and trained in sufficient numbers, he said.

The Department had, however, suffered greatly at the hands of less labour-intensive, more capital-intensive institutions, particularly the private sector, which had lured some of its best teachers to greener pastures.

"We simply cannot compete with this."

Mr Du Plessis rejected as totally untrue past allegations that the relatively under-qualified teacher corps had come about by design.

He paid tribute to those underqualified teachers who had been with the Department since its early days.

'Bantu' Out, 'Black' In, Says Barend

The Minister of Education and Training, Mr Barend du Plessis, yesterday appealed to MP's not to refer to Black education as "Bantu education."

Speaking in Committee on his vote, he also called for the media's help in this regard.

"I am not asking anyone to limit their criticism, but let us rid our-

selves of this degenerating terminology."

Referring to a speech in which Mr Peter Soal (PFP Johannesburg North) stated there was a "major demand" at present for the release of two pupils currently being held by the S.A. Police, Mr Du Plessis said his information was that the two people concerned, one of

whom had allegedly tried to stab a school Principal at Atteridgeville, had been released on bail on Thursday.

Mr Soal earlier urged the Minister of Law and Order to bring these two people to court as soon as possible "in order that we may concentrate our attention on educational matters."

Plea for Action on Black Education

SOUTH Africa would remain saddled with one crisis after another in Black education if there was not a change in Government philosophy, Mr Ken Andrew (PFP Gardens) said yesterday.

"We must find a way out of the familiar pattern of grievance, boycott, threats, incidents, police involvement, more incidents and then endemic unrest," he said in debate on the education and training vote.

"I suspect the position is deteriorating rather than improving.

"I hope I am wrong, but I want to make an urgent appeal to the Minister (Mr Barend du Plessis) to take action to try to prevent schools' unrest developing into a major national problem.

Crisis

"We could be facing a crisis of major proportions in the near future if speedy corrective action is not taken," Mr Andrew said.

Most important of all was the improvement of communications through the establishment of bodies at school level — democratically elected pupil representations — and among parents and community leaders at community level.

Problems would still occur and to minimise and resolve them, the authorities had to act quickly and sensibly to eliminate legitimate grievances.

Principals should be assisted to develop conflict regulating skills, and in each

region, an independent body should be set up to mediate between the pupils and the authorities or other parties involved in disputes.

Enjoy

Such an independent body would need to enjoy the respect of all parties and should be a standing committee and not only constituted after a dispute has reached crisis proportions.

It would not be easy to get out of the familiar pattern of unrest at Black schools but better communication and mediation could assist considerably, Mr Andrew said.

Other steps the Minister could take were to remove inequalities and close the White/Black per capital expenditure gap in education.

Race discrimination and patronising Bantu education mentality should also be removed and inequalities should not be entrenched by segregating education financing.

"These steps could, I believe, improve a serious and unhappy situation but until the Government recognises that the Black people of this country reject apartheid education and do something about it, our Black schools and universities will be plagued with problems and unrest.

"In practice, separate education will always mean unequal and inferior education for Blacks."

'Flash-Conflict' Danger in Education

THE slightest confrontation in Black education could lead to "a flash-conflict situation", Mr Ron Miller (NRP

Durban North) said yesterday.

Speaking in committee on the Education and Training vote, Mr

Miller welcomed the framework announced earlier by the Minister, Mr Barend du Plessis, in regard to the restructuring of communication between the Department and the various communities it serves.

Education, he emphasised, was of top priority for all urban Blacks, who, like the Afrikaner, had realised the need for it.

Mr Peter Soal (PFP Johannesburg North) urged the Minister to visit the unrest-troubled Black township of Atteridgeville in the Transvaal himself.

"This will be a short-term solution to the problem. A long-term solution is a lot more difficult."

It was important that the De Lange recommendation of a single

education department be implemented and that there should be a move away from "Bantu" education.

If peace was to be achieved in Atteridgeville it was of great importance that discriminatory laws, on which students hung their grievances, were removed as soon as possible, he said.

The major demand at present, Mr Soal said, was the release of two students currently being held in custody by the police.

"This is a police matter and I urge the Minister of Law and Order to bring these two persons to court as soon as possible so that we may concentrate our attention on educational matters."

Discipline Queried

CORPORAL punishment in Black schools should be abolished, Mr Horace van Rensburg (PFP Bryanston) said.

Speaking in committee on the education and training vote, he called for an investigation into this form of punishment.

Mr Van Rensburg said corporal punishment caused resentment and would always be a contributory factor to violence at Black schools.

CSO: 3400/969

SOUTH AFRICA

CONTROVERSY RAGES AROUND BOSHOFF'S AV INVOLVEMENT

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 14 May 84 p 9

[Article by Jaap Theron]

[Text] THE controversy around Professor Carel Boshoff's involvement with the Afrikanervolkswag (AV), has reached a stage where Pretoria University is virtually demanding his resignation as theological professor.

The Transaal Voortrekker Youth Movement has also "discreetly indicated that he should resign his Voot Voortrekker leadership", and preparations are also being made to oust him from the executive of the FAK.

Prof Boshoff in turn issued a statement in which he warned the media he was taking legal advice because they, incorrectly, gave the AV an image of being "militaristic".

Prof Boshoff's attitude towards his employer, Pretoria University, is that he has done nothing, with regard to his employment regulations, that warrants his expulsion from the University staff.

In spite of the discreet standpoint by both the Cape Province and Transvaal regional councils of the Voortrekkers--The Transvaal Voortrekker regional council discussed his involvement with the AV on Saturday--that he should reconsider his position with a view to the controversy surrounding his involvement with the AV, Prof Boshoff is still adamant in remaining national leader of Die Voortrekkers until July next year.

The commandant of a Pretoria Voortrekker commando told The Citizen yesterday that parents of some Voortrekkers have already withdrawn their children from the movement "as a result of Prof Boshoff's involvement with the AV".

There are also indications that some Voot Voortrekker commandos would soon discuss this controversy at the local level.

It was further learned yesterday that Tukkies rector, Prof Danie Joubert, has given Prof Boshoff until Wednesday this week "to decide between the AV and his job as theological professor at Tuks".

The five regional councils of the Voot Voortrekkers, including that of SWA also considering holding an early national congress to sort out their national leaders' position.

An executive member of the Voortrekkers told The Citizen "the controversy surrounding Prof Boshoff was starting to effect the private careers of about everyone of the 20 Voortrekker executive members and that an early solution of the issue had become imperative".

Prof Boshoff is one of the 15 executive members of the FAK. It is understood that plans were underway to oust him from this position when the FAK holds its national annual congress in July this year.

CSO: 3400/971

COLUMNIST COMMENTS ON FORMATION OF AFRIKANER VOLKSWAG

Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 14 May 84 p 4

[Article by Aggrey Klaaste in the "On The Line" column: "Trekking Nowhere"]

[Text]

THE trouble with the great human drama of the Great Trek, even as a 20th Century update, is it's so awfully boring.

It is coincidence, perhaps more aptly poetic justice, that the drama was re-enacted in Skilpad Hall — you cannot get more somnambulant or duller than that. A skilpad, just in case you are that dumb, is a tortoise. This interweaves almost drowsily with other Afrikaner historic mementoes like the ox-waggon, koeksusters and the laager.

I chanced on this piece in The Star, which in a manner of speaking, reflects the pathos, the loneliness, the Calvinist Rip van Winkle and strait-jacket mentality that might drive you up the wall, or to sleep. But it can be as dangerous as a rattle-snake in its old-fashioned intensity and passion.

You have never met so many self-righteous people who believe their history has a special umbilical thread with Paradise, or a hot-line to heaven. This is how the story is treated in The Star: "Few events have spotlighted the loneliness, bitterness and frustration of the Afrikaner right as has the official launching of its new cultural organisation.

Solid Front

"The official founding of the Afrikaner Volkswag took place in the Skilpad Hall in Pretoria on Friday and Saturday morning (last week). More than 7 000 men, women and children, some of them from as far as the Western Cape, packed the hall to become founder members of what they hoped would be a solid front of all the forces to the right of the National Party."

I may have alluded to this before, but I have

recently read The Covenant, which is a massive novel by James Michener on the story of the Afrikaner people, in all its poignant chapters (the story not the book). It tells about the reasons those gnarled trekboers took away from the shackles of British control — or any other form of control it would seem — to start their march into the interior. And at the same time create the unique story of South Africa we have today. It tells of heart-rending events like 'Slagtersnek' rebellion when boers were hanged for crimes against their servants, it tells of the concentration camps after the Anglo Boer War, it tells of the Battle of Blood River — with a particularly good account of Dingane's army and its excellent military displays.

The book is not very absorbing, and often not entirely historically correct. The copy I have, incidentally, was given to me by an elderly American's wife who found a thousand or more pages of South African history, even by Michener, simply too much diet for the nerves.

Now many years later the same calls to the Afrikaner blood were revitalised at the Skilpad Hall. The world, including South Africa, has taken on giant strides in many ways and it is almost with compassion that one reads about these people valiantly attempting to push the historic process a century or so back. These incredible Afrikaners are back on the road. There is no longer an interior. There is nowhere to run to this time, both figuratively and literally.

So the Afrikaners will stand or kneel by their covenant with God and, er . . . well pray or fight.

According to other newspaper reports, the

formation of the Afrikaner Volkswag (AV) saw the gathering of the forces of the ultra rightwing, and this could be the most serious challenge from the right to the Government since it came to power in 1948.

That is a bit of an exaggeration, I think. But there was the well of emotion, the veritable tear jerkers of the Volk, all the symbols from years of survival politics dragged out of hoary history and flaunted into the political milieu of the 80's, that is perhaps just too hip and fast-moving to be impressed by the laager mentality. You wish to pity them or laugh at them at your peril, these Afrikaners. They may seem crazy but they are deadly serious.

It will add adrenalin to our somewhat jaded lives to watch how the P W Botha juggernaut tids, or tries to rid itself of this slow-thinking people. There are those who believe this ancient, the pristine almost, call to the blood is not for this century; that it has no place and no chance in nuclear-age politics. There are others who believe this will see another dramatic cleavage in the Afrikaner monolith.

We have our pet theories. We believe there are many South African whites, for instance the crowd that voted Yes in the referendum, who may be frightened of all this verligtheid, but who are even more scared of a race conflict. There are numerous whites from Zimbabwe, Mozambique and other African states who strongly believe blacks should be kept in their place; that a multiracial system would see South Africa dissolve as their former states did in confusion, corruption, and even bloodshed.

Professor Carel Boshoff, son-in-law of Dr Hendrik Verwoerd — one of those conservatives who believe blacks are the children of Ham — is the chief guru of the AV. I don't think he is very smart. It may be a good thing to have this D H Lawrence type of blood-call to kin and kith, but one needs to take cognisance of current events. You could use this kind of racist hype to drum up a lot of emotional support. Why people like Hitler did it with considerable effect.

Crazy Circus

There are others in this crazy circus, like Mr Jaap Marais who is unashamedly racist; Dr Andries Treurnicht of the Conservative Party who is a pain in the fundament for my money, but might have considerable clout; and the daddy of them all, Mr Eugene Terre 'Blanche of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging who is a godsend to any leftwing revolutionary.

Professor Botha said the Afrikaners were losing the land they thought was theirs. Mr Marais spoke of war. Dr Treurnicht said God did not wish to see His people go back to Bab-el. And in typical dramatic fashion, surrounded by black-uniformed bodyguards sporting the red, white and black AWB insignia, Mr Terre 'Blanche spoke emotionally of traitors, of "Joiners" and "Hensoppers."

I'm glad I'm South African if only for all this impending mix of mayhem and excitement.

CSO: 3400/971

BLACKS' STANDARD OF LIVING INCREASES 'DRAMATICALLY'

Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 14 May 84 p 4

[Editorial: "GST Shock"]

[Text]

THE VIEW that the massive General Tax Sales increases that have shocked almost everybody, will not hit the black community that hard is rather short-sighted because even if a number of basic consumer products will not be in the increased tax bracket, the situation in the country has somewhat changed.

It cannot be said that only blacks would "benefit" from the tax exemptions on staples because many whites these days use these products. The days are gone when only blacks, for instance, used the humble staple food — mealie meal. Many whites have found it cheaper to eat it these days.

On the other hand, the standard of living for blacks has crept up quite dramatically. There are many goods which were considered luxury items by the majority of blacks just a few years ago which have become common in our living.

The number of black people who own cars these days has tripled. There are quite a number of white-collar workers who drive the most expensive cars on the market. As many of us are building and buying homes, the standard of household goods for blacks has shot up phenomenally. There are many homes in the townships which boast some of the most expensive furniture in

the stores.

The conventional wisdom that poor people buy cheap is also not entirely true. In fact even in the days of desperately low wages, blacks used to buy expensive goods as they went for quality. No doubt there are thousands below the Poverty Datum Line, who spend more money on the basic consumer goods. The scene however is changing fast.

Sunday newspapers yesterday reported that the Minister of Finance was duplicitous in his last Budget speech. He swore himself red in the face that he would not increase GST and income tax. Not long after that, he has hit the population with a massive GST tax increase. Mr Owen Horwood had argued hotly in Parliament that his Budget was sound, that he could have increased income and sales tax massively if he had so wished. It seems something made him change his mind drastically and hastily.

What is most perturbing for us is the control that will be exercised in black stores — the little shops in the townships. We cannot be that sure that shopkeepers will not simply add on their own estimated kind of tax, and how will this be checked. True we might take our custom away from them, but you do not jump into a train to buy a bag of mealie meal from town all the time.

The Government may believe that it is closing some loopholes in the national Budget. We are wondering if it has thought about what would happen to the labour scene.

There is no doubt that trade unions are going to fight for more pay. The battle will be brought to the shop floor. There will be labour disruption. The spiral will eventually hit the Government, which thought it was saving money by taxing us so heavily.

CSO: 3400/971

SOUTH AFRICA

INCREASE OF BLACK SCHOOLCHILDREN REPORTED

Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 14 May 84 p 5

[Text] THE number of black schoolchildren in South Africa had increased from some 800 000 in the 1950s to more than five-million today, and the Department of Education and Training (Det) was faced with a massive and extremely sensitive task which was by its very nature a political one, the minister, Mr Barend du Plessis, said on Friday.

Speaking at the start of the budget debate on his portfolio, he said the Department employed more than 40 000 black teachers at over 7 000 schools, with annual additional pupil registrations amounting to more than 60 000.

"We construct between 11 and 14 additional classrooms per working day and we find ourselves daily and continuously in a crush where our efforts are concentrated on helping a mass of people to help themselves.

"We are a labour intensive industry, irreversibly bound to a high degree of manual labour," Mr Du Plessis said.

However welcome, contributions from well-meaning bystanders on the sidelines could not make a substantial and lasting impression on progress.

"Essentially, the momentum for the ultimate successful fulfilling of our lofty ideals in black education must come from within the communities themselves."

Whites

White teachers could supplement the teaching force in black education only to a very limited extent, and this would be the case even if education were integrated into a single department.

Teachers for black children would have to come from the black community itself and it was therefore essential to re-educate teachers and upgrade their qualifications, as well as to ensure teachers of the right quality were recruited and trained in sufficient numbers, he said.

The Department had, however, suffered greatly at the hands of less labour-intensive, more capital-intensive institutions, particularly the private sector, which had lured some of its best teachers to greener pastures.

"We simply cannot compete with this."

Mr Du Plessis rejected as totally untrue past allegations that the relatively under-qualified teacher corps had come about by design.

He paid tribute to those under-qualified teachers who had been with the Department since its early days--a time when it had been imperative to bring basic literacy to the masses of illiterate people.

"At that time these teachers, many of them with only a Standard Eight certificate, underwent professional training by way of a two-year diploma course to fulfil this urgent need in their respective communities."

The Minister also paid tribute to some 10 000 of these underqualified teachers who were at present improving their qualifications under difficult circumstances and often at great personal sacrifice.

CSO: 3400/971

AZAPO CHARGES 'WHITEWASH' OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Statement Released

Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 7 May 84 p 2

[Text]

THE president of the World Medical Association, Dr Lionel Wilson, came to South Africa to "whitewash" the Medical Association of South Africa (Masa).

So says a statement released by the National Health Secretariat of Azapo yesterday. It claims that Dr Wilson's utterances, like those of his predecessor, Dr Maartens, were biased.

Dr Wilson had said among other things, that while the focus locally and internationally on Steve Biko's death was unfortunate, he believed, after speaking to a wide range of leaders and personalities in the medical and political field over the past two weeks, that the Medical Association of South Africa had spoken out very forcefully in support of improving the medical care of detainees.

Health

Masa, he said, had done as much as it was able to do within the terms of its constitution and indeed much more than many medical associations might have done in other countries.

Dr Wilson's "limited

mandate," the Azapo statement says, "conveniently sidesteps the fundamental and central issues in health care and delivery. If Dr Wilson had cared to investigate the influence and effects of apartheid medicine (of which Masa is an integral component) he would have come to no other conclusion but that a blatant violation of the Geneva Declaration prevails in South Africa.

"The Geneva Declaration on medical ethics, adopted by the General Assembly of the World Medical Association in 1948, holds that considerations of race, nationality, social status, etc, shall not intervene in health care.

"In direct contravention of the spirit of his own organisation's central policy document, Dr Wilson makes the naively favourable judgment which is intended to justify Masa's continued membership of the world body as well as the holding of the forthcoming World Medical Association conference in South Africa," the Azapo statement says.

Editorial Comment

Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 7 May 84 p 4

[Editorial]

[Excerpt] **SOUTH** Africans, perhaps more than people elsewhere, usually deplore the inclination by certain visitors who make weighted conclusions about their situation after a short visit.

The country's peculiar situation invites such snap impressions. While we would understand that the president of the World Medical Association would be expected to give his views about our situation, we believe Dr Lionel Wilson fell almost backwards to say good things about the Medical Association of South Africa (Masa).

Dr Wilson has been in the country for about two weeks, presumably to test the country's situation as president of the world body, before this organisation holds the scheduled conference in Cape Town next year. Most of the things he had to comment upon are very sensitive. We believe he should have taken time, or rather that he should have exercised extreme caution before making categoric statements about Masa and the health situation here.

It would seem to us rather injudicious for the president of the world medical organisation to take the view that Masa is doing all it can, and did all it could, to address the distressing issue of detainees.

The situation of detainees notwithstanding, there are other grave matters that are not mentioned by Dr Wilson. According to Azapo's health secretariat, the Geneva Declaration on medical ethics holds that consideration of nationality, race and social status shall not intervene in health care. Even a very superficial study of health in South Africa would tell the unbiased observer that such ethics are disregarded here. We are thus just as surprised as others by Dr Wilson's myopic conclusions.

It is normal for the average person to hold a rather exalted view of people in medicine and health generally. This is often the result of awe for what appears to be this arcane discipline or the very personal involvement that doctors and others in health have in our lives.

So it is distressing if such people, who should inspire trust in us, display the same tendencies that we have. It is perhaps also rather unfair on doctors, as they are as human as we are, but the fault is also theirs that their discipline tends to be so very much above our heads.

Having said all that, we believe the president of such an august body should have been more circumspect in his conclusions.

CSO: 3400/971

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

LABOR UNREST--MORE than 1000 workers were involved in labour unrest over dismissals and trade union recognition in Johannesburg and Springs this week. About 200 workers at Edison Electro Plating in Benrose were fired after management had accused them of belonging to the Steel Engineering and Allied Workers' Union. The union's general secretary, Mrs Jan Hlongwane, said several attempts by the union to meet management on the issue were unsuccessful. The union has asked for legal advice on the matter. More than 50 workers at the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg were yesterday ordered off the premises after a two-day go-slow demanding a minimum wage of R350 per month. Management was busy with negotiations with the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers' Union of SA (Ccawusa) representing the workers by late yesterday. At four other hotels--Sandton Sun, Landrost, Parklane and Rand International Hotel--over 200 workers yesterday continued their go-slow demanding a R350 per month minimum wage and that management recognise their union (Ccawusa). About 700 workers at East Rand Gold and Uranium company reported back to work yesterday after management had promised to negotiate with the National Union of Mineworkers. [Text] [Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 11 May 84 p 2]

BOYCOTT HURTS BUS COMPANY--CISKEI Transport Corporation (CTC), target of a 10-month bus boycott, has cut its bus fleet by half and retrenched 449 workers. A spokesman estimates that the boycott has cost CTC about R5-million, leading the Corporation to dispose of 180 of its original fleet of 360 buses. Public Relations Manager of the Ciskei People's Bank, Mr Wessel van Wyk, said, however, that the financial loss was no longer escalating. "We have restructured and rationalised our operation in view of the boycott. Our remaining 600 staff are now all on full pay and we don't foresee any further retrenchments," he said. Mr Van Wyk said the drastic reduction in buses and staff meant CTC could continue operating with only the present number of passengers using the service. "But in the long term we will have to improve these numbers to make the service profitable," he said. "Already we have a slight upturn in the number of passengers we are carrying, but I can't give percentages at the moment." Mr Van Wyk appealed to the boycotters to understand that the corporation could make no further concessions. "There is no more the company can give. We have cut costs to the bone and passed all the benefit on to the commuters. We have gone as far as we can go without closing down the company." Boycotts began when CTC increased its bus fares by about 10 percent. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 11 May 84 p 2]

BLACK DRIVERS SACKED--DURBAN--Three-hundred drivers at the Motorvia plant in Pinetown have been fired after defying an ultimatum by management to return to work. The men, who had been on strike since Monday, all refused to meet the deadline, 1 pm on Thursday, according to an official of the Transport and Central Workers Union. The drivers were demanding a R55-a-week basic wage instead of being paid for each trip. When management resisted the demands, the workers pledged not to return to work until they received the basic wage. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 12 May 84 p 10]

CHARLES SEBE'S TRIAL--BISHO--Accused terrorist Mr Charles Sebe, former Commander-General of state security in Ciskei and brother of President Lennox Sebe, "feared for his life" when he realised he had fallen into disfavour with the President, the Supreme Court at Bisho heard yesterday. Mr Sebe faces charges of terrorism and six alternatives. It is alleged he intended to overthrow the State by means of violence and that he incited and encouraged a group of people, including members of the Ciskei police and security forces, to release his deputy, the former Brigadier H Tamsanqa, by force. He has pleaded not guilty. Brigadier A Nell, of the Ciskei Defence Force, told Mr Justice J Pickard he had advised Mr Sebe to discuss his differences with the President. Brig Nell said when the accused realised he had fallen into disfavour with the President and feared for his life, he had told the former security chief: "General Sebe, you are brothers and brothers do fight, but I do not think that the differences between you and your brother are that much. Face him as a man and discuss your differences." Brig Nell could not divulge any other comments he made to Mr Sebe as this would "endanger the security of the State." The case was postponed to May 21. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 12 May 84 p 9]

ARMED AV MAN--The police have started a departmental inquiry into whether or not the pistol-toting Afrikaner-Weerstands beweging bodyguard at the foundation meeting last Saturday of the Afrikaner-Volkswag is a police reservist. A senior police officer said yesterday newspaper reports making this allegation had resulted in the departmental inquiry--but this was regarded as a domestic matter and if the allegations were proven the police would deal with the man "in the correct way." Members of the police force are forbidden to take an active part in political activities. Meanwhile an Afrikaans-language newspaper yesterday identified the "bodyguard" as a Mr Chris Visagie and it was stated that he was a second-year student at Pretoria University. However, efforts to find Mr Visagie on the campus of the University were unsuccessful. The leader of the AWB, Mr Eugene Terreblanche, justified the actions of the pistol-bearer when he addressed a public meeting in Pretoria on Thursday night. The man--one of six who took up guard on Mr Terreblanche when he addressed the Volkswag meeting--always wore the pistol and was licenced to have it, he said. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 12 May 84 p 8]

URBAN FOUNDATION HOUSING--THE Urban Foundation is to spend R37-million on housing developments--among them the construction of 3 600 houses in Soweto and Katlehong--during its 1984/85 financial year. Among major projects earmarked by the Foundation is a R5,4-million housing scheme for the 3 000 Mzimhlophe Squatter Camp families, who were left stranded when floods destroyed their homes in Kliptown seven years ago. Announcing this in

Johannesburg yesterday, the managing director of the Urban Foundation, Dr Robin Lee, said expenditure for the current financial year would amount to R47-million, which represented an increase of 170 percent over that of the previous year. Dr Lee said that three of the Urban Foundation's major sponsors had announced an increase of 25 percent--about R500 000--in their annual contribution. The money would be donated over a five-year period. "Approximately R37-million, or 78 percent, is earmarked for residential development and eight percent for education and training. Smaller amounts will be expended on enterprise development, research and a number of smaller projects," Dr Lee said. The proposed housing scheme for the Mzimhlophe families, who are living in squalid conditions, is still to be approved by the Diepmeadow Town Council. [Text] [Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 11 May 84 p 1]

VOTER REGISTRATION FIGURE--A total of 39 063 applications for registration as voters was received from Coloureds and Indians between March 1 and the end of last month, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr F W de Klerk, said yesterday. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 12 May 84 p 4]

VISITS FOR SECURITY PRISONERS--CATEGORY A security prisoners will in future be considered for greater contact with their families during visits, the Commissioner of Prisons, Lieutenant-General W H Willemsen, announced in Pretoria yesterday. The announcement is in line with a policy statement two years ago by the Minister of Justice. These are prisoners, security or otherwise, who have earned their status through good behaviour while serving sentences. A statement issued on behalf of Gen Willemsen by the liaison office of the SA Prison Services said: "The Commissioner of Prisons announces that with due cognisance of security measures, the availability of facilities and a prisoner's behaviour and adaptation, the heads of prisons can in future also consider granting the privilege of contact visits to members of the family (husband, wife, child, father, mother, brother and sister) of security prisoners in A category. This step forms part of the policy in this regard which was announced in the House of Assembly on May 12, 1982, by the Honourable Minister of Justice. Security prisoners are prisoners who were sentenced in terms of security legislation and who, like other criminals, violated the laws of the country. They have no status above that of other prisoners and do not deserve a different approach or different treatment. They must also earn their privileges and are subjected to the same discipline. They are also expected to co-operate and act responsibly in order to ensure an orderly prison community which means that just like all other prisoners, they will be treated with due cognisance of factors such as security and treatment programmes." [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 14 May 84 p 17]

CSO: 3400/971

BHEKIMPI GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCES INCREASING DIFFICULTIES

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English 25 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] PLAYING QUEENS. Prime minister Bhekimpi's government is in trouble. The recent wave of arrests of alleged ANC guerrillas infiltrated from Mozambique, hides mounting domestic opposition. The South African claim that a non-aggression pact was signed between Pretoria and Mbabane two years ago, is dubious. If there was such an accord, why did South Africa's prime minister P. W. Botha say last September that proposals for such a treaty had been submitted to Swaziland, but that a decision had not yet been reached? (Botswana and Lesotho received similar proposals at the same time).

The "pact" with Swaziland was revealed at a moment when Bhekimpi thought he might need security assistance. As one of the architects of Swaziland's armed forces (he fought on the Allied side in World War II), Bhekimpi keeps his ear close to the ground and has early warning of any incipient coup. His leading opponents, on the other hand, the supporters of Prince Mbandla, whom Bhekimpi ousted in last year's palace revolution, are closer to the para-military police. Swaziland's police has felt usurped by the growing intrusion of South African police in search of ANC members--not an easy task, since Swazis are often indistinguishable from black South Africans. And the ANC has many Swazi-speaking members.

The feeling that Bhekimpi and foreign minister Richard Dlamini are in danger of compromising Swaziland's sovereignty has become widespread. Opposition, now more militant than Mbandla's ever was, has managed to hijack Queen Ntombi as a symbol of royal authority. In forcing Bhekimpi to return to the queen the powers of which she was deprived early in her reign, they have scored a substantial advantage. The demotion of the unpopular traditionalist, Prince Sozisa, described as the "Authorised Person", has restored public affairs to a more modern type of civil service. Sozisa, who backed Bhekimpi last year (AC Vol 24 No 23) while threatening to "take things into my own hands", should he consider it necessary, had wide powers of discipline over officials and politicians. The statement announcing this change in Sozisa's status added that the move did not reflect on the manner in which the prince had carried out his duties. But it is taken as a blow against the authorities in general. There are several theories about how the climb-down was brought about. It was certainly connected with an attempted coup on 20 March - the third in three months.

The fact that this attempt was made public by Prince Mfansibili and not Bhekimpni was in itself significant. Bhekimpni himself is not usually reticent on matters of state, and as if to put Mfansibili in his place, he then made two major statements. In the first he described himself as "the man in authority on behalf of the institution of the monarch", charging that some of the "ever-so-law-abiding Swazis have forgotten as to who is responsible for the monarchy". He also admitted political unrest: "some dissidents are forever grumbling". His second statement appealed to the public to report the presence of foreigners, in particular the ANC, but it gave the impression of warning people against a more intangible enemy: "strangers have been found all over the country, even at the university. From where they emerge no-one knows".

Another ambitious man is the managing director of the privileged royal Tibiyo Taka Ngwane Fund, Dr Sishaya Nxumalo, whose promotion last November to minister of finance underlines his powerful position. But the biggest threat to the Bhekimpni administration is the modernist faction of the educated urban elite. This was symbolized last year by ex-Queen Dzeliwe, whose key supporters have therefore found it possible to adopt the new queen as a symbol. Her unifying influence has lent the liberal grouping new strength, so much so that Bhekimpni was forced to agree to the release of the imprisoned politicians, including Princes Sulumlolo and Thundukula, Arthur Khosa (who advised Dzeliwe to challenge the attempt to dethrone her in court) and Douglas Lukhele, her lawyer.

In view of the rank of these opponents, Bhekimpni, himself a respecter of rank, is personally inclined to compromise with the Ntombi faction, but may be prevented, not only by his ambitious colleagues but by his now public commitment to South Africa, which most of the modernists do not share.

CSO: 3400/972

BRIEFS

COMORAN AIR PACT--TANZANIA and the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoro have signed an air service agreement, re-establishing scheduled flights between and beyond the two countries. The pact, signed on April 13 in Dar es Salaam, covers the provision of necessary facilities required by operating airlines of either state. The agreement was signed by the Minister for Transport and Communications, Ndugu John Malecela, and the Comoro Secretary of State for Transport and Tourism, Mr Antoy Abou. Among other things, the agreement to be ratified by the two governments--provides for each state to provide aircraft fuel and lubricants and on board catering while spares brought in for repair of aircraft on an international service shall be exempted from duty. The signing of the agreement follows a visit to Comoro by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim, early this year. The two countries then signed a cooperation pact to strengthen relations. The frequency and type of aircraft, its capacity and other commercial and financial conditions of the operation would have to be approved by each country's aeronautical authorities. The agreement further provides that each contracting party shall grant the right of free transfer in convertible currency at the official rate of the exchange of the excess of receipts earned by the airline in the territory in connection with passenger, mail and cargo business. Meanwhile, an official of ATC said the airline had sent a delegation to Moroni to make feasibility study to ascertain the viability of re-establishing a scheduled flight to the Comoroes. Air Tanzania Corporation (ATC) used to operate scheduled flights from Dar es Salaam to the Comoro capital--Moroni--from 1979 to 1982, but terminated the service because the route was uneconomical, an ATC official said. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 26 Apr 84 p 2]

EVALUATION OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION--THE Party is in the process of evaluating the intensity of socialist construction in the country's regions to discover areas of strength and weakness. CCM Secretary General Rashidi Kawawa said this at the Kivukoni Party Ideological College in Dar es Salaam yesterday where he held a question and answer session with students. Ndugu Kawawa told the students that the exercise was necessary so that experience in different regions was assessed in depth. He was responding to the question of whether the Party monitored the influences of Regional Integrated Development Plans (RIDEPs) many of which were backed by capitalist countries. Ndugu Kawawa said evaluation work was being undertaken by the Economic Affairs and Planning Department of the Party National Executive Committee (NEC) secretariat. The department would furnish a report on its findings to the NEC

Secretariat and later a comprehensive report would be presented to the Central Committee of the NEC for consideration. In reply to another question on whether the Party had yet to get the list of leaders who the Tanzania Youth Organisation (Vijana) had considered to have engaged in economic sabotage activities, he said most probably the Government was scrutinising it. The list was handed over to the Government leadership in Kigoma last year.
[Excerpt] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 28 Apr 84 p 1]

'FIFTH COLUMNISTS' UNCOVERED--SEVENTEEN cases of "fifth column" perpetrators were uncovered in Dar es Salaam Region in the last year by patriotic and vigilant workers, it was learnt in the city yesterday. The Dar es Salaam Regional Party Secretary, Ndugu Andrew Shija, revealed this in his closing address of a two-day general conference of the Union of Tanzania Workers (JUWATA) at the Institute of Adult Education. Ndugu Shija urged workers to reveal, without fear, all "fifth column" elements in the country in order to rid the nation of petty bourgeoisie who of late had never stopped complaining about everything. He said under the current economic hardships, the "fifth columnists" were a danger to the nation's defence and security, and were dangerous rumour mongers. Speaking to the nearly 260 delegates to the conference Ndugu Shija reminded the workers' leaders that "our biggest task ahead of us all in defending the nation is to produce enough for the people to eat and wear. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 9 May 84 p 3]

CSO: 3400/967

INVISIBLE PAYMENTS, CAPITAL OUTLAY CAUSED HUGE DEFICIT

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 10 May 84 p 2

[Text]

A SURPRISE in invisible payments and growing capital outflow led Zambia to accumulate a huge overall deficit of K134.6 million in the quarter ended June last year.

This amount compared to only K63.3 million deficit registered in the preceding quarter, says the latest Bank of Zambia quarterly **Financial and Statistical Review** just released in Lusaka.

The report regrets that the general performance of Zambia's economy from April to June last year remained unsatisfactory. The foreign exchange position remained tight.

Despite the increases recorded in exports receipts and low level of the import bill, the trade balance was not large enough to meet the requirements of the various competing demands.

It recalls that prices of all export minerals together with most of their volumes went up. Payments for imports dipped, mainly reflecting the non-lifting of crude oil during the period.

"This, with the rise in payments for invisible and the growing capital outflows brought about a larger overall deficit of K134.6 million in the quarter ended in June 1983 than that of K63.3 million registered in the preceding quarter," it says.

The report paints an equally dark picture on the foreign

assets position whose net continued to decline from minus K808.3 million at the end of March last year to minus K977.6 million at the end of June 1983.

On a six-month basis, the first half of 1983 was not better than the second half of 1982. The deficit widened by K14.4 million to K197.9 million during this period.

But the report notes, increased realised earnings assisted the authorities in reducing the pipeline of arrears by K34.7 million to K704.9 million at the end of June.

To reduce the serious internal and external financial imbalances facing Zambia and to establish conditions likely to permit a sustained recovery in overall economic activity, a one year programme was negotiated with and approved by the International Monetary Fund.

"This, together with the balance debt rescheduling exercise in progress, is expected to give some relief to the balance of payments," the report acknowledges.

On a positive note, the Government Budget improved during the quarter ended June 1983. There was upturn in its accounts.

An overall surplus of K16

million was registered in the quarter under review against a deficit of K10.9 million in the period January-March 1983.

The report reaffirm that the favourable development was the result of an increase in total revenue which outstripped the rise in total expenditure.

It is commendable that the Government did not have a recourse to borrowing to finance its capital projects.

"There was a jump in capital expenditure which was fully financed out of revenue collections. This was in contrast with the first half of 1983 when expenses for capital projects were met through borrowing," it says.

Monetary development reflected the unsatisfactory external performance of the economy.

CSO: 3400/968

NCU DEPOTS IN BORDER AREAS PLANNED

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 8 May 84 p 5

[Text]

THE Party in collaboration with the Northern Province Cooperative Union (NCU) will set up depots in border areas to discourage farmers from exchanging bags of maize and beans with goods smuggled from neighbouring countries. Member of the Central Committee Mr Joseph Mutale has said.

Mr Mutale said in Kasama yesterday the Party had taken the measures to guard against a repeat of what happened last marketing season when some farmers opted to "barter" bags of maize and beans for smuggled goods instead of selling them to the union.

"The Party will through the union check this trend of events. We are establishing

depots in border areas to lessen the amount of produce being smuggled out of the country."

He was answering questions on what action had been taken to stop the illegal trade in view of reports of famine caused by the prolonged drought.

Last September NCU general manager Mr Longa Sichalwe said the union would not be able to buy the estimated one million bags of maize because farmers were exchanging maize and beans with goods from neighbouring countries.

Mr Sichalwe said another reason was because most farmers had decided to retain a portion of their marketable surplus for consumption.

But he had attributed the low yields to the wrong ferti-

liser which was sent to the province.

As a result the NCU only managed to buy 150,000 bags of maize out of about 356,000 it had anticipated from Mbala during the last season.

In Muyombe area the NCU bought 60,000 bags out of the estimated 110,000 while farmers in Nakonde sold 30,000 bags when the union expected 80,000.

Whereas the union bought 1,422 bags of beans from farmers in Mbala and Isoka districts the previous season nothing was offered for sale last year.

Yesterday Mr Mutale said there were "some few characters throughout the province bent on smuggling goods from the country".

CSO: 3400/968

TRANSPORT INDUSTRY FACES COLLAPSE, SAYS MADONDO

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 9 May 84 [no page No given]

[Text] TRANSPORT industry in Zambia will collapse unless the government stops motor dealers from peddling spare parts and new vehicles at inflated prices, Truckers Association of Zambia [TAZ] vice-chairman, Mr Charles Madondo warned yesterday.

Mr Madondo revealed that there were irregularities in the sales of motor vehicles, spare parts and lubricants in the country.

He warned that unless the government took pragmatic measures aimed at curbing the irregularities and supported the transport industry, the future of the industry was bleak.

Flanked by the association's treasurer, Mr Bhupendra Patel and two former members, Mr Abdulla Mussa and Mr Peter Zeravica, Mr Madondo charged:

"We are being ripped off by motor dealers as an industry. The prices of spares have shot up by 800 per cent within a short period and unless something is done, we are doomed."

He explained that motor dealers were strangling the transport industry through exorbitant prices charged on spares and lubricating oil. With the current shortage of tyres and tubes with which the industry was dogged, the future was dark, he said.

"We are badly hit with the shortage of tyres, tubes and spares and we feel the government should strongly support the industry," he said.

He cited an example of a hydraulic jack which is sold at K351.50 in one shop and in two other shops within Lusaka it goes at K395 and K660.50 respectively.

Mr Madondo said it did not matter from which shop to buy because they were all unfavourable adding that the situation had been worsened by the lack of hire purchase services for motor vehicles.

The truckers have to pay hard cash for any vehicle they would want to buy and in cases where they have to import, they are told to pay huge sums of money for deposit.

He said because of the huge amounts of deposits needed before buying a vehicle from the dealers, the truckers are often left without any working capital and are thus forced to overdraw from their banks.

For instance, where a transporter wants to buy a Mercedes Benz truck, which costs K131,000 these days, he is required to pay K80,000 as deposit.

During a snap survey in Lusaka yesterday, it was discovered that in fact motor dealers over price spares they buy from other motor dealers within the country and then defend themselves on the pretext that the spares are expensive because of huge amounts of foreign exchange spent on them.

Mr Madondo deplored the attitude by Zambian exporters and importers who shun local transpoters in preference to foreign ones. He said this tendency cost the government millions of Kwacha in foreign exchange.

CSO: 3400/968

ZAMBIA

UNIP OFFICIAL ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 9 May 84 p 5

[Text] PARTY Secretary-General Mulemba yesterday appealed to Zambians to accept "harsh" measures which were being taken to resuscitate the economy adversely affected by the world recession.

The United National Independence Party (UNIP) did not thrive on opportunism or popularity at the expense of working out long-term solutions to the country's economic problems.

Mr Mulemba said this in a speech reach for him by Chairman of the Social and Cultural Sub-Committee Mr Bob Litana in Lusaka at the awards of life membership by the Zambia Red Cross Society.

The Party chief commended the work of the Red Cross and urged Zambians to involve themselves in voluntary work which the organisation was involved in.

He said the spirit of self-reliance should be consolidated in the nation.

"Zambians must know that only voluntary efforts, voluntary will and voluntary zeal can ever change our economic position for the better," said Mr Mulemba.

He told the audience which included Red Cross Society chairman Dr Mashekwa Nalumango that the world recession had brought "untold suffering" to many countries including Zambia.

"Those who prefer instant solutions and automatic action must know that there are no automatic solutions and instant solutions to the problem of the Zambian economy."

The Party would take bold measures which in the long run should stabilise the economy while in the short-term Zambians would have to go through hardships.

"The necessary measures are harsh because of the world recession and the need to strengthen the Zambian economy. Let us not prefer popularity by dreaming out measures which in no way can answer our problems."

As a leadership and a people's Party, UNIP and Zambians as a whole must face realities and grapple with the crunch of the country's problems.

The Party chief said UNIP did not thrive on opportunism and had no time "in the future to expect and expound unachievable".

Referring to the Red Cross Society, Mr Mulemba said the price of the Party in the organisation was that it had effectively demonstrated its role as a provider of first aid training, ambulance services, blood transfusion, nursing and community health services "which constitute immeasurable social benefits to all age groups across the nation".

Earlier, Dr Nalumango announced that Mr Henry Siwale, Mr Paxton Chandra and Mrs Jesse King had been proposed for life membership awards.

CSO: 3400/968

ZAMBIA

MINERS RALLY BEHIND MUZ CHAIRMAN WALAMBA

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 9 May 84 p 5

[Text] MANY Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) workers on the Copperbelt have supported the leadership of Mineworkers Union of Zambia (MUZ) chairman Mr Timothy Walamba and want him to continue with the job.

Workers from Kitwe yesterday trooped to Mr Walamba's office to assure him of their support and protest against charges by the dissolved Nkana branch executive and shop stewards who last Sunday called for his resignation.

Workers condemned former branch chairman Mr Roy Yumbe who was chairman of the meeting which made the charges, saying the action was uncalled for because he was part of the management that had not done anything to sort out problems for which they blamed Mr Walamba.

Mr Walamba said yesterday he did not want to comment until after the elections of the new branch executive. He said it was unfortunate that Mr Yumbe had decided to use a public platform to condemn an executive of which he was a trustee.

Meeting over the weekend, Nkana branch officials and shop stewards called on Mr Walamba to resign because he had allegedly failed to solve workers' grievances submitted to his office.

Meanwhile, Zana reports that 21 people successfully filled their nominations for the MUZ Nkana branch elections scheduled for today, returning officer Mr Francis Kunda said.

All members of the former executive dissolved last week by the Industrial Relations Court following a successful petition were among those who filed their nominations.

Mr Yumbe and leader of the petitioners Mr Moses Bwalya were the only candidates for the chairmanship while four miners will contest the post of vice-chairman.

Mr Kunda said the nominations were conducted peacefully despite the "explosive atmosphere" that followed the dissolution of the previous executive.

In Chililabombwe shop stewards of the Konkola branch of MUZ have passed a vote of no confidence in almost the entire executive committee and called on them to resign immediately to pave way for fresh elections, reports Zana.

Branch chairman, Mr Mufo Nkunika, the only committee member not affected by the development, confirmed this yesterday but declined to discuss the matter further.

He said an urgent meeting would be convened this week to discuss the matter.

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ZCS TO EARN INCREASED FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 9 May 84 p 2

[Text] ZAMBIA Sugar Company (ZSC) will earn K500,000 in foreign exchange this year from exports of molasses to Zimbabwe whose delivery has already started.

Confirming the company's determination to boost the country's forex coffers, an Indeco spokesman said yesterday that the subsidiary had started shipment of 1,000 tonnes of brown sugar to Burundi through Mpulungu port.

But according to the department of foreign trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry late last month, sugar was on the list of 21 essentials whose exports from Zambia had been banned.

The spokesman assured that the exports were going on with the full knowledge and approval of Government authorities.

"Zambia Sugar Company has signed a contract with the Zimbabwe Cold Storage Commission for the supply of molasses to the drought stricken areas of Zimbabwe and this is expected to earn Zambia K500,000 in foreign exchange."

He explained that the export of molasses follows the record harvest of more than one

million tonnes of cane at Nakambala Estates in the 1983 season from which 132,000 tonnes of raw sugar was produced.

Noting that the year's cane sugar harvest resulted in a record production of molasses, he assured local farmers that they would not be deprived of their supply of molasses because of the Zimbabwe export deal.

While exporting the surplus, the company was actively seeking to promote local sales of molasses which are an important source of nutrition for livestock.

He recalled that in the last four years the company had been exporting molasses worth K330,000 a year and pledged that the trend would continue. ZSC has built a new 6,000-tonne molasses tank to improve storage capacity, he said.

Meanwhile, the Dairy Produce Board (DPB) has embarked on quality control measures for its products including milk in a bid to cut down on production costs.

CSO: 3400/968

INVESTMENT PACT WITH INTERAGRA SIGNED

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 9 May 84 p 1

[Text]

A FRENCH conglomerate, Interagra, has agreed to finance various projects in Zambia, which include a 10,000 hectare farm, and the rehabilitation of the TAZAMA pipeline.

An agreement was signed yesterday in the office of Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia, by Interagra chairman, Mr Jean-Baptiste Doumeng, and Minister of Agriculture and Water Development, General Kingsley Chinkuli.

Speaking before the signing ceremony, Mr Mundia said Zambia was proud to be associated with the French company which has investments all over the world and assured Mr Doumeng that the politically stable climate in the country was suitable for investment.

He added that Zambia was striving to recover from her economic problems and would do her best to co-operate with the French company in order to ensure the success of the agreement.

The farm will be established on the Copperbelt and will produce wheat, maize, soya beans and stock feed. It will also cater for development of a dairy industry in which 10,000 cows will be imported.

In addition, storage facilities, cattle feed mills and other facilities will be established for the successful implementation of the farm project.

Zambia will make a cash down-payment equal to 15 or 20 per cent of the total amount of the foreign exchange component of the necessary investment and will

also be responsible for salaries, accommodation, transport and medical expenses for the Zambian experts.

Interagra will, on the other hand, take care of salaries, air tickets between Paris and Lusaka and costs of various necessary studies and analyses which will be done in France.

On the rehabilitation of the TAZAMA pipeline, the Zambian government presented a copy of the feasibility study carried out, and stated that Interagra was free to submit a bid when the tenders are invited. The project is scheduled to cost over K12 million.

In the transport sector, it was proposed that French specialists be provided to refurbish existing vehicles such as Mercedes Benz, Volvo and Mack and the importation of trucks provided by Interagra, was considered.

The company will also study the possibility of creating workshops and factories to provide maintenance and fabrication of spare parts and other implements and will provide training programmes.

The company will also provide assistance in the rehabilitation of the electricity supply network for Lusaka Urban District Council at the cost of about K65 million over a period of two years.

Other areas agreed upon were the supply of steel sheets and tin-plates and the utilisation of new agricultural technology by Zambia commercial and small scale farmers through the Zambian co-operative movement.

Gen. Chinkuli told Mr Doumeng that his decision to invest in Zambia was a practical demonstration of the confidence which his country has for this nation.

And Mr Doumenge, who has been in the country since Saturday at the invitation of President Kaunda, said although his visit was private, he nonetheless wished to see the development of healthy relations between France and Zambia.

CSO: 3400/968

BRIEFS

REORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE--THE Government plans to reorganise the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development in a bid to transform Zambia from a copper to a food-exporting country. Minister of State for Agriculture and Water Development Mr. Daniel Munkombwe said this when addressing a field day at Ngwezi settlement in Mazabuka yesterday. Mr Munkombwe said with immediate effect, agricultural experts will be directly involved in all transactions between lending institutions and farmers. Officials will be responsible for loan recommendations and this would cut down on defaulting by farmers. To ensure full participation in the food production by farmers, the ministry will be flexible in offering loans to peasant and commercial farmers as well as to those who default genuinely because of the prolonged drought. He pledged help for credit facilities from the Agricultural Finance Company, Zambia Agricultural Development Bank and Cattle Finance Company. [Excerpt] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 10 May 84 p 5]

PAPER MILL LAYOFFS--THE Zambezi Paper Mills factory in Ndola now operating at 30 per cent below capacity because of scarcity of raw materials may lay off more workers if the situation does not improve in the next few weeks. Managing director Mr Dinesh Sharma said in Ndola yesterday there had been no improvement in the situation since 35 workers were laid off on Thursday last week. The company which manufactures tissue paper, paper napkins, lubricating papers and many other paper products was forced to shut down one of its two plants because of a shortage of raw materials. "We shut down the first production line and are finding it hard to survive on the remaining one," he said. Mr Sharma said management was trying hard to negotiate for foreign exchange to buy pulp and other chemicals. Last week a delegation from the company went to Lusaka to discuss the issue with officials in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry but the meeting could not be held because most of the officers were out of the country. The delegation will go again this week and he hopes the company's problems will be considered. Mr Sharma said last week that the company was facing problems in collecting waste paper needed for production. [Text] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 9 May 84 p 2]

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